

## Afghanistan orders national elections

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Soviet-backed Afghan government Saturday ordered national elections, but rebels fighting the government said they would not take part. The two-chamber national assembly will take place from April 6 to 13, Kabul Radio reported. It said 229 seats of the Council of Representatives (lower house), and 62 seats of the Council of Elders (upper house) would be at stake. But a spokesman for an Afghan rebel party said the Kabul government was not legitimate and had no right to call elections. Kabul Radio, monitored in Islamabad, quoted a decree issued by President Najibullah as saying parliamentary seats would be kept vacant for the rebels if they did not contest them now. Afghanistan's last parliamentary elections were held in 1960s under King Zahir Shah and the second in the 1970s by President Mohammad Daoud, who deposed the king in 1973 but was himself toppled and killed in a coup in 1978. The elections were announced as U.N.-mediated Afghan peace talks in Geneva remained stalled over the questions of Soviet military supplies to the Kabul government and who will govern Afghanistan after Soviet troops leave the country.



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## King sends good wishes to Ibn Ali

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of congratulations to Tunisian President Zine Abidine Ben Ali on the occasion of his country's National Day. The King wished the Tunisian president continuing good health and success in serving his people and country.

## King condoles Arafat

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent condolences to Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on the death of his elder brother Mustafa, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Saturday. The message to Arafat was sent through Jordan's embassy in Cairo, where the PLO leader attended his brother's funeral Friday, Petra said. Mustafa Arafat died of cancer.

## Fayez praises Soviet decision

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al-Fayez Saturday met with a delegation from the Soviet Journalists Federation. Fayez praised the Soviet Union's decision to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan and said that this would contribute to peace in the region.

## Abu Ghazala heads for U.S.

CAIRO (AP) — Defence Minister Abdul Hafiz Abu Ghazala flew to Washington Saturday for a 10-day visit to discuss Egypt's arms requirements under an annual agreement. President Hosni Mubarak said in a recent newspaper interview that Abu Ghazala's visit will focus on "our military needs."

## IRA kills 2 British soldiers

BELFAST (R) — Two British soldiers in plain clothes were seized and shot dead by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) Saturday after their civilian car was trapped in the midst of an IRA funeral cortege in Roman Catholic west Belfast. Army sources said the men were on duty but had not been assigned to watch the funeral and appeared to have blundered into the procession by error. The soldiers were captured during the funeral of IRA member Kevin Brady, who was one of three men killed by a Protestant extremist in a gun and grenade attack at Milltown cemetery Wednesday. Brady had been among 10,000 mourners at the burial of three members of an IRA bomb squad killed in a British army ambush in Gibraltar this month.

## Gonzalez: Noriega may come to Spain

HUELVA, Spain (R) — Panama's military ruler Manuel Antonio Noriega may be allowed to come to Spain if he relinquishes power. Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said Saturday. Asked by reporters if Spain would grant asylum to Noriega, Gonzalez replied: "There is a possibility if the political problems in Panama are settled." In Washington, U.S. television reported Friday that Noriega had agreed to most parts of a deal under which he would leave the country for France or Spain (see page 8).

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# Officials draft OIC agenda

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Preparations began in earnest Saturday for the 17th conference of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers which opens here Monday.

Representatives of 45 Islamic countries were finalising the agenda for the foreign ministers in a closed meeting at the Regency Palace hotel. A spokesman for the Jeddah-based OIC General Secretariat would only say that a recommendation was adopted naming the Amman conference "the session of Islamic solidarity with the uprising of the Palestinian people," in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

## Draft agenda finalised

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Saturday finalised a draft agenda for the OIC foreign ministers meeting which opens here Monday. The agenda includes the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian problem, the Iran-Iraq war, the Mecca incidents (during last year's pilgrimage when Iranian pilgrims staged a political demonstration) and clashed with Saudi security forces, the situation in Afghanistan, international terrorism, Muslim minority affairs and other economic, cultural information, administrative and financial matters.

rising, the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in Afghanistan and prospects for peace in the war-torn country would be among the top items on the agenda.

Saturday's meetings were held at under-secretary level and were chaired by Jordanian Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Nabih Nimer, who took over from Dr. Ahmad Ramzi of Morocco who presided over the last OIC meeting at similar level.

In an opening speech, Nimer highlighted the significance of the Palestinian uprising and voiced Islamic countries' concern over the developments in the occupied territories.

Nimer welcomed the delegations and hailed on their behalf the steadfastness of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and assured the people under occupation of the Islamic World's solidarity and total support for the uprising and the Palestinians' right to self-determination and return to their homeland.

Following Nimer's speech, an executive committee was elected for the meeting. The committee.

(Continued on page 5)

## Philippines problem unfolds in Amman

By Saad G. Hattar  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On the eve of the 17th conference of Islamic foreign ministers in Amman Manila and a Muslim separatist group in southern Philippines are entangled in a war of words over to likelihood of the group obtaining a full membership in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The Philippine government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) have launched separate political drives in efforts to muster backing to their respective causes from different OIC member states.

"Many OIC members have given us pledges and complete assurances to support our cause during the conference," MNLF Central Committee Chairman Nur Misuari told the Jordan Times.

"The Philippines is confident that the MNLF request for OIC membership would be foiled for lack of consensus amongst the member states," Philippine ambassador to Jordan Juan Saez said Saturday.

Citing the OIC charter, which stipulates that only Muslim states are eligible for regular membership, Saez said: "It is highly unlikely that they become a regular member now or in the future."

Saez based his remarks on political and personal contacts with the 28 resident and non-resident legations of OIC states in Amman. "Our assessment is that the OIC will never endorse MNLF full membership."

The front has had an observer status since 1974 in the Jeddah-based organisation.

The Philippine ambassador

(Continued on page 5)

# Israeli soldiers storm Ramallah hospital, pursue anti-media drive

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops, tightening a clampdown on the 100-day-old Palestinian uprising, stormed a West Bank hospital Saturday, swooped on a district in Gaza City and arrested television crewmen in a West Bank town.

In an overnight raid, troops arrested 10 Palestinian patients and visitors at Ramallah hospital, prompting doctors to stage a sit-down strike, eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said.

The hospital has been a centre of anti-Israeli protest in recent weeks and demonstrators have frequently flown the Palestinian flag from its roof.

Military authorities in the occupied territories have stepped up measures aimed at controlling the uprising in the occupied territories and preventing widespread protests on Land Day, the March 30 anniversary of the death of six Arabs in a 1976 demonstration against Israel's confiscation of Arab land.

In Ramallah, police arrested the members of five television crews trying to film what appeared to be shooting by Jewish settlers on the town's northern outskirts.

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) television correspondent Keith Graves said the men, all Israeli nationals employed by foreign networks, were taken to Ramallah police station when they refused an army order to leave the area.

The army also arrested an Arab journalist in the West Bank town of Tulkarem who worked for the Palestine Press Service, the agency and Israel Radio said.

The journalist, Adnan Damiri, was arrested in the middle of the night for "security offences," the agency said. Damiri, formerly a student council president at Nablus' Al Najah University, had already served six years in prison for "security offences."

Resistance fighters fought fierce battles Saturday with Israeli troops and their militia allies who thrust into Lebanon's western Bekaa Valley, security sources said.

The push by a joint Israeli and South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia force was their deepest foray out of Israel's self-proclaimed border "security zone" this year.

The force, backed by tanks and armoured personnel carriers, moved at 6.30 a.m. (0430 GMT) under covering fire from Israeli helicopter gunships and advanced seven kilometres to the hilltops of Maidoun village, the sources said.

The thrust was apparently aimed at flushing out resistance fighters who have staged cross-border attacks in recent weeks despite the "security zone" which is intended to stop them.

"The aim of the thrust was to storm hideouts of the Hizbollah (Party of God) in Maidoun," one source told Reuters.

"They failed to locate any fighters and only found a small amount of weapons, which they confiscated," said the source, adding that the force retreated to the "security zone" after four hours.

Security sources in Rashaya, in the Bekaa, earlier said intermittent fighting with rocket launchers, heavy machineguns and mortars had erupted Friday evening and raged until midday Saturday.

They said two Lebanese civilians and a soldier with Syria's peacekeeping force based in Mashghara in the western Bekaa were injured in the fighting inside and outside the "security zone."

Resistance fighters shelled the SLA-controlled villages of Hasbaya, Kfar Falous and Jezzeine outside the zone and Kfar Fila inside it, the sources said.

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Gulf-based shipping officials,

In Gaza, residents of the Sabra district were awakened before dawn by army jeeps with loudspeakers announcing that a night curfew imposed on the Gaza Strip

last week would remain in force all day in Sabra, home to 10,000 people.

Israel Radio reported that a number of residents were arrested during the night.

Shortly after dawn, troops arrived at the Sabra home of Reuters journalist Taher Shitrit and ordered him to clear away rubble left by demonstrators in the street outside.

When he produced press identification, troops called him a "troublemaker" and searched his home and office, Shitrit said.

The curfew on the city's Sha'ti Palestinian refugee camp continued Saturday, 24 hours after troops shot dead a resident in a violent demonstration there, an army spokesman said.

A Palestinian boy in the West Bank refugee camp at 'Ain Beit Elma was killed in a clash with troops Friday after mass arrests at the camp.

Sources at Al Ittihad hospital in Nablus said the boy bled to death because he failed to receive prompt medical attention after troops shot him in the leg.

"All the blood in his body was just siphoned off," the sources said.

The Palestine Press Service said soldiers burst into the Ramallah hospital and checked identification papers, and some assaulted staff members.

Israel bans Palestinian organisation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli military authorities declared a Palestinian youth movement illegal Saturday. An Israeli statement described the Shabbiba organisation as a front for the Fatah group, which it said was active in violence against Israeli forces.

"Any person who continues to be a member of the Shabbiba will be subject to arrest and trial," the statement said.

Palestinian sources were puzzled by the move as Fatah is banned in its own right and Shabbiba has no formal membership structure.

"It's as if the U.S. in the 60s had made it an offence to be part of the peace movement, who do you arrest, how do you define a member, it seems like a public relations exercise to legitimise getting the youth off the streets," one source said.

The army also arrested an Arab journalist in the West Bank town of Tulkarem who worked for the Palestine Press Service, the agency and Israel Radio said.

The journalist, Adnan Damiri, was arrested in the middle of the night for "security offences," the agency said. Damiri, formerly a student council president at Nablus' Al Najah University, had already served six years in prison for "security offences."

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## Rifai, Arab delegation hold talks with Soviet leaders

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai held talks with Soviet leaders Saturday on the new American plan for peace in the Middle East and the outcome of consultations His Majesty King Hussein held with Arab leaders on the American proposals.

A delegation of Arab League foreign ministers also held talks with Soviet officials Saturday on the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that Rifai met separately with his Soviet counterpart Nikolai Ryzhkov and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and discussed with them issues of mutual concern to Jordan and the Soviet Union, particularly the Middle East problem.

It did not give details, but an announcement made upon Rifai's departure for Moscow Friday said that the prime minister would brief the Soviets the King's talks with Arab leaders on the new American proposal for Arab-Israeli peace.

The Soviet news agency TASS said Rifai and Shevardnadze agreed on the need for urgent steps to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Shevardnadze and Rifai noted the danger and inadmissibility of partial and separate agreements, which pose obstacles to unblocking the Arab-Israeli conflict and lead to splits among the Arab countries," TASS said.

Referring to the new U.S. peace plan, the agency said the two men believed any initiative on the region must be evaluated on how far it balanced the interests of all sides.

It added that they had agreed on the need to speed up moves towards setting up an international conference on the Middle East. Rifai returned to Amman later Saturday.

Before his departure, Rifai also met with heads of Arab diplomatic missions in the Soviet capital who expressed their desire to meet the prime minister to be briefed on Jordan's efforts for resolving the Middle East question.

Arab delegation's talks

Meanwhile, an Arab League delegation led by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi left Moscow after a two-day visit, TASS said.

The visit included talks Friday with Shevardnadze, who urged a unified Arab approach to solving the Middle East conflict.

Shevardnadze "emphasised the importance of the coordination of the actions of the Arabs and the elaboration of a concerted approach" towards the Middle East conflict, TASS said.

In the meantime, he said, Perez de Cuellar has invited Iran and Iraq to send special emissaries for separate talks at the United Nations on a possible ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Iran had been invited to send an emissary for intensive talks at the end of this month, with Iraq asked to send an envoy in early April, a U.N. statement said Friday.

"The secretary general will report to the Security Council immediately after completing this round of consultations," U.N. Press Secretary Francois Giuliani said.

In the meantime, he said, Perez de Cuellar wanted to create an atmosphere that might help the consultations and he appealed to both sides to refrain from acts that could lead to an escalation of the conflict and create further obstacles for a ceasefire accord.

## Riyadh says it has non-nuclear missiles

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia confirmed Saturday it had bought Chinese medium-range missiles but denied they could carry nuclear warheads. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted an official source as saying the kingdom acquired the CSS-2-class surface-to-surface missiles to meet its arms needs and defend holy sites amid an unstable Middle East situation. "However, reports published in some newspapers that these missiles have nuclear capability are not compatible with the truth and the kingdom categorically denies them," the source said. The Washington Post said Friday that China was selling Saudi Arabia missiles which could carry a nuclear warhead to any part of the Middle East. The U.S. State Department said the report was correct (see page 5). But the SPA said: "The kingdom's firm policy is to save the Middle East the dangers of the nuclear arms race and remain a nuclear-free zone. Saudi Arabia does not consider any plan aimed to increase its defence capability and safeguard its legitimate interests as likely to threaten peace... it is likely that this may help bring about stability in the region."



His Majesty King Hussein confers with Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzada in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

## King confers with Pirzada, Sytenko

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein held talks believed to have focused mainly on developments in the Afghanistan problem with Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada and a senior Soviet envoy in separate meetings Saturday.

The King received Pirzada at the Royal Court and discussed with him the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and the "explosive situation in light of Israel's repressive measures against the indigenous citizens in the territories," an OIC spokesman said.

In addition to Afghanistan, the discussions also covered the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war and other issues in the agenda for the OIC foreign ministers meeting which opens here Monday, the spokesman said.

Pirzada thanked His Majesty for "the excellent preparations made by the Kingdom for the conference," the OIC spokesman said.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Pirzada as saying he discussed with the King "matters of importance which will be discussed by the OIC foreign ministers."

These issues, he said, include the Palestinian uprising, the Gulf war and the Afghanistan problem. King Hussein later received

(Continued on page 5)

## Habib briefs Cairo leaders on progress of U.S. plan

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. special envoy Philip Habib briefed Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid Saturday about the progress of Washington's Middle East peace initiative.

After their one-hour meeting, Abdul Meguid repeated Egypt's view that the U.S. proposals were encouraging.

"Our policy in Egypt, as it has been, is to encourage the United States in the peace process because we all in this region are in need of peace," he said.

Habib, who will also visit Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Morocco, is due to meet President Hosni Mubarak Sunday, Foreign Ministry sources said.

He was sent to the region after a U.S. visit by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who is still firmly opposed to a proposed international conference.

Announcing the Habib mission, the U.S. State Department said Friday that "we are looking for an early response from the parties at conflict."

Department spokesman

Shultz remains upbeat

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz remains upbeat about the progress of the U.S. peace proposals.

(Continued on page 5)

## Correction

In an inadvertent mistranslation of a speech by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the Arab-Soviet dialogue Friday, the Jordan Times quoted the Crown Prince as saying that the Soviet Union should have veto powers in an international conference on the Middle East. In fact, the Crown Prince said that "Soviet participation should be in a manner that includes decision-making and arbitration powers, and not in a purely protocol manner." The Jordan Times regrets the error.

U.N. could go to U.S. court in row over PLO

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations is considering whether to appeal to a U.S. court against an order to shut down the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) U.N. mission, a U.N. spokesman said Friday.

The action would be unprecedented for the world body, which is considered a sovereign entity, but diplomatic sources said emergency measures might be necessary in the crisis in U.S.-U.N. relations.

Representatives of Arab states reviewed the case with Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Thursday, in advance of a resumed session of the General Assembly.

They were understood to have discussed the option of an appeal to a federal court for a stay in the closure order due to be delivered to the PLO next Monday.

U.N. Press Secretary Francois Giuliani told reporters that the idea was being considered by U.N. Legal Counsel Carl-August Fleischhauer, but other sources said Perez de Cuellar was wary about such a far-reaching step.

Opening a specially summoned General Assembly, Perez de Cuellar said Saturday: "My concern ... goes well beyond the present legislation and concerns the integrity and viability of international agreements in general and the headquarters agreement in particular."

If the United States refused to abide by the headquarters agreement, the United Nations must ensure that the PLO mission was allowed to carry out its official duties.

He did not say how this could be done, though one option being discussed privately is for the PLO's observer, Zehdi Terzi, to be given facilities in the U.N. building, which is not subject to U.S. jurisdiction.

"The message of the government of the host country... is a dangerous precedent... dangerous for the United Nations... and also a threat to other international and regional organisations throughout the world, all of which are governed by headquarters agreements," Ghezal added.





## Barakat's lens captures nature's wonders

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of recent works by a Jordanian photographer, the first of its kind in Washington D.C., opened Wednesday, March 16, at the Arts Club of Washington. Jordan's ambassador to the United States, Mohammad Kamal opened the exhibition.

Jan Barakat, who began her studies in photography in 1984, put on show more than 30 pieces that combine a highly skilled photographic technique with creative impulse to express the multifaceted beauty of the floral world.

Barakat treats the flower as the subject of a formal portrait, either in profile or full-face, but always with studied focus on its poised, expansive elegance. At other times, to reveal more than the eye can see, she frees her vision to penetrate the underlying structure of the flower, to reach the delicate lines of life that lie beneath its petalled costume of colour.

It is in these compositions, where the seductive symmetry of nature is made to fold and unfold with pulsating rhythm, that the photographer succeeds in dominating the camera to become the artist.

On this level, Barakat possesses an aesthetic temperament no less spiritually sensual than that of the American painter, Georgia O'Keeffe.

According to photography critic Carter Clews, to Barakat, the flower is not an object; it is a subject. If "a rose is a rose is a rose," it is, in this artist's eye far more than just a rose, it is the living embodiment of a thousand



fleeting feelings: A wink, a smile, a touch, a tear. It is in the artist's words, "a reflection of one's own journey, of one's shared and singular life experiences."

Clews added that to Barakat, "it is the unique ability of the camera lens to isolate and accentuate the smallest detail of the floral subject, which leads the photograph such a symbolic impact. At times, in fact, the visual impact is even greater than the subject in nature could hope to convey."

Barakat explains, "what you can see through the lens is often totally different from what you

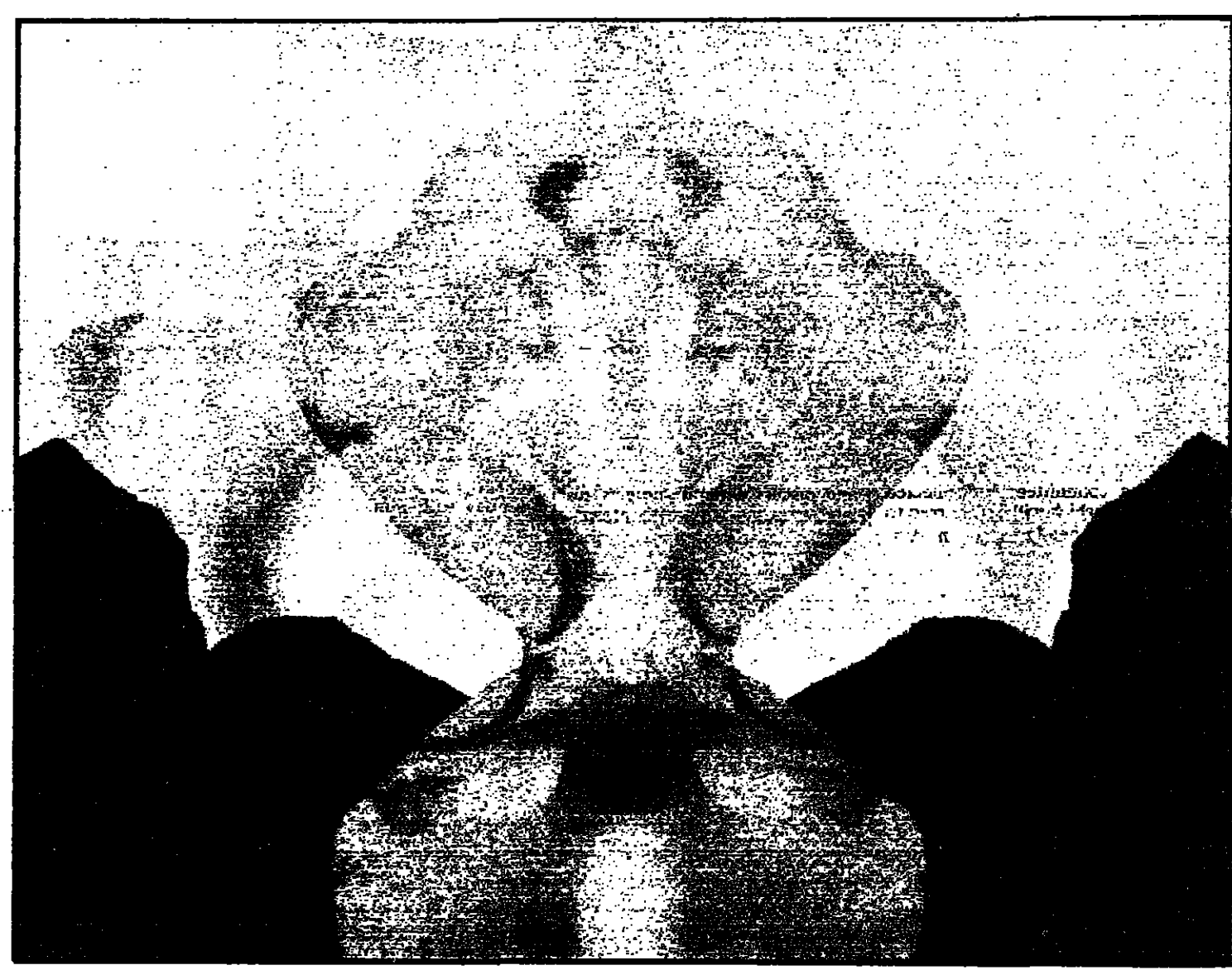
can see with your eyes. The lens takes away all of the extraneous elements — from the flower's environment and your own. It draws you into the core, to the heart. It immerses you. It isolates to the essence."

According to Clews, "regardless of the photographic technique, whether it involves creating a blended background or 'isolating to the essence,' one fact remains certain: This is a photographer whose careful attention to detail openly affirms her love affair with the flower; one who understands and appreciates the

enduring symbolism of all that is a single blossom."

Jan Barakat, began participating in group exhibitions. She received immediate recognition and was awarded the first prize in Real Show organised by the Art Directors Club of Metropolitan Washington, as well as an award of excellence from Photographers Forum Magazine.

Barakat was born in Amman, and has been living in the Washington area since 1978. She is married to Dr. Akram Barakat, the director of Jordan Information bureau in Washington, D.C.



### TV & RADIO

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##### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran  
15:50 ..... Programme Review  
16:00 ..... Arabic series  
16:30 ..... Children's programme  
17:00 ..... Soccer  
18:10 ..... Local programme  
18:30 ..... Local agricultural programme  
19:00 ..... Programme review  
19:10 ..... A special programme about Islamic countries

##### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ..... Rue Carrot  
18:30 ..... L'Ecole des Fous  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... International Circus Festival  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
19:45 ..... Varieties  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... A special programme  
21:10 ..... Coteau Adventure (documentary)  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Secret Army

#### RADIO JORDAN

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##### 07:00

Light Music

07:30 ..... Newsdesk

08:00 ..... Morning Show

10:00 ..... News Summary

11:00 ..... In Concert

12:00 ..... News Summary

12:05 ..... Pop Talk

13:00 ..... News Summary

13:05 ..... Pop Session cont.

14:00 ..... News Bulletin

14:10 ..... Instrumentals

14:30 ..... Science Report

15:00 ..... Concert Hour

16:00 ..... News Summary

16:05 ..... Instrumentals

16:30 ..... Old Favorites

17:00 ..... News Summary

18:00 ..... Rhythm and Blues

19:00 ..... Newsdesk

19:30 ..... Date with a Star

20:00 ..... Evening Show

21:00 ..... News Summary

21:05 ..... Evening Show continued

21:55 ..... News Summary

#### BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 123 KHz

##### 06:00

Newsdesk 06:30 Capriccio 06:45

Reflections 06:50 Financial Review

07:00 World News 07:09 Twenty-Fours

Hours: News Summary 07:30 Chain

Reaction 07:45 Letter from America

08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Jazz for the

Asking 09:00 World News 09:09 24

Hours: News Summary 09:30 From

Our Own Correspondent 09:45 Book

Choice 09:50 Waveguide 10:00 World

News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Plea-

asures Yours 11:00 World News 11:09

The Sunday Papers 11:15 Science in

Action 11:45 Education Today 12:00

News Summary: Short Story 12:15

Classical Record Review 12:30 Reli-

gious Service 13:00 World News 13:09

News About Britain 13:15 From Our

Own Correspondent 13:30 Play of the

Week: Remembrance 14:00 News

Summary: Play of the Week: From the

Lion Rock 15:00 World News 15:09

Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary

15:30 Sports Roundup 15:45 The Sandi

James Request Show 16:00 News Sum-

mary 16:30 Yes Minister 17:00 Radio

Newsdesk 17:15 Concert Hall 18:00

World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15

Why Should This Happen to Me?

18:45 Letter from America 19:00

World News 19:09 Reflections 19:15

Jazz for the Asking 19:45 Sports

Roundup 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 My

World 21:00 News Summary: Classical

Record Review 21:15 News Summary:

The Reluctant Debutante — Part II

22:00 World News

#### VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1360 & SW 720, 9565, 1174,

11925 and 15210 Hz

##### 06:00

News 06:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News

09:10 VOA Morning 09:00 News 17:10

New Horizons 17:30 Studio One 18:00

News 18:10 Encounter 18:30 Special

English News & Features 19:00 News

19:10 Critic's Choice 19:30 Issues in

the News 20:00 News 20:10 Encounter

20:30 Special English News & Features

21:00 News 21:10 Sunday Report 21:30

Music: USA Standards 22:00 News

22:10 The Concert Hall 22:45 Editorial

23:00 News 23:10 New Horizons 23:30

Studio One

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### TODAY'S EVENTS

##### EXHIBITIONS

★ Art exhibition by Olivia Pallard

at Alia Art Gallery (until March 28).

★ Book exhibition at the Comprehen-

sive Commercial Centre (Tower Build-

ing), Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle (perma-

nent).

★ "Fifth Caricature Exhibition,"

works of the late Naji Al Ali at

Hussein Camp Youth Activities Cen-

tre.

★ General book exhibition at the

Professional Associations Complex in

Shmeisani.

★ An exhibition entitled "Reconstruc-

tion of the late Naji Al Ali at the

Rock" at King Abdullah Ibn Al

Hussein Mosque.

★ Book exhibition at the University of

Jordan's Faculty of Arts.

★ An exhibition by Samia Zarour at

the Jordan National Museum of Fine

Arts (until end of March).

#### CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267

American Centre .. 644371

American Centre Library .. 641320

British Council .. 6361478

French Cultural Centre .. 637009

Goethe Institute .. 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre .. 634049

Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777

Haya Arts Centre .. 665195

Y.W.M.A. .. 641793

Amman Municipal Library .. 637111

Univ. of Jordan Library .. 343555

#### MUSEUMS

★ "Children's Heritage and Science

Museum." Fun and knowledge for all

ages, plus a small planetarium at the

Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00

a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00

p.m. Closed on Friday.

★ Fakhre Museum: Jewelry and cos-

tumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics

from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th

centuries). The Roman Theatre, Am-

man. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Year-round. Tel. 651760.

#### SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings

every first and third Wednesday at the

Regency Palace hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings ev-

ery second and fourth Wednesday at

the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings

every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn,

1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday

at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00

p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Am-

man. Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534,

817534.

#### CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic)

Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman

Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh. Tel.

637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic)

Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.

Terranova Church (Roman Catholic).

Jabal Luweibdeh, mass in Italian lan-

guage, meet every Saturday at 5:30

p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek

Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623341.

Anglican Church (Church of the Re-

deemer) Jabal Amman. Tel. 625383,

chaplain's residence tel. 601359.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh.

Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashraf-

ieh. Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church (Inter-

denominational): meets at Southern

Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel.

671534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church

of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arab-

ic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N.

Smir 811295.

Rainbow Congregation (meets at the

Good Shepherd's Church)

Interdenominational-cum-Eng-

lish Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. tel.

822605, Rev. Vel.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815-817,

821-264.

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 5320-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:15 ..... Agaba (RJ)

09:30 ..... Kuwait (RJ)

09:40 ..... Jeddah (RJ)

09:55 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

10:00 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)

17:00 ..... London (RJ)

17:45 ..... Helsinki, Aqaba (RJ)

17:50 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:00 ..... Paris (RJ)

18:05 ..... Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)

18:05 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)

18:15 ..... Brussels, Geneva (RJ)

18:30 ..... Madrid, Rome (RJ)

23:55 ..... Baghdad (RJ)

#### OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:00 ..... Berlin (LF)

09:35 ..... Cairo (MS)

10:20 ..... Damascus (AZ)

11:45 ..... Kuwait (LN)

12:45 ..... Sharja, Doha (GF)

12:55 ..... Jeddah (SV)

13:00 ..... Kuwait (KU)

15:30 ..... Baghdad (IA)



## Crown Prince marks 41st birthday today

**ROYAL DECREE:** A Royal Decree was issued approving new amended laws on antiquities, higher education and the Agricultural Credit Corporation. The new laws will go into effect as of March 17, 1988. Another decree has approved new measure pertaining to the Water Authority which organizes the authority's activities and linking it with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

**SPORTS PROGRAMME:** Minister of Youth Awwad Khleifat will attend a sports programme which is being organized by Yarmouk University on Monday on the anniversary of the Karameh Battle.

**CHARITY BAZAAR:** Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairman of the board of trustees of Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund Saturday opened a charity bazaar held at the Social Development Centre in Hazi Nazzal in Amman. Princess Basma toured the various sections of the 10-day bazaar whose proceeds will go to the centre's activities.

**FRESH MEAT:** Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh Saturday opened a centre for sale of fresh meat at Ain Ghazal, adjoining the municipality's slaughter house. The centre will be mostly useful for the residents of Marka district, east of Amman.

**TALKS IN SYRIA:** Jordan's Ambassador to Syria Ali Khreis met in Damascus Saturday with the speaker of the Syrian People's Council Abdul Qader Qaddoura and discussed current Arab affairs and Jordanian-Syrian parliamentary cooperation.

**CULTURAL SEASON:** The Jordan Academy of Arabic (JAA) this week embarks on a cultural season at the University of Jordan with noted intellectuals and men of literature from Jordan and abroad giving lectures on different literary themes.

**\$2M FOR UPRISING:** Libyan universities have raised \$2 million as a contribution to support the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Arab land. Association of Arab Universities (AAU) President Mohammad Dugheim announced Saturday. He said that he received a cable from Tripoli stating that a Libyan fund raising committee has collected \$2 million which will be referred to the AAU headquarters in Amman for the benefit of Palestinian students.

**TIES WITH EGYPT:** Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Al Tabbaa Saturday reviewed with Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Habb Wahbeh bilateral relations in the fields of trade and industry.

**HIGHER EDUCATION:** Minister of Higher Education Dr. Nasser Eddin Al Assad Saturday met with Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) Dr. Abdul Hadi Bataleh, and discussed with him boosting Jordan's relations with the organisation as well as the organisation's projects and programmes concerning scientific researches and higher education.

**ART EXHIBITION:** Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, the president of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, will open an art exhibition by Spanish artist Maria Dolores Travesedo Wednesday at the Spanish Culture Centre in Jabal Amman.

**CLEANLINESS:** Zarqa Municipality Saturday began a six-day cleanliness campaign in two of its districts in cooperation with charitable societies and women's unions.

**DOCUMENTATION:** U.N. University documentation officer Dr. Keith Harry arrived here Saturday at the invitation of the Amman-based Al Quds Open University (QOU) during which he will give lectures to the university staff in documentation, archives and information fields.

**TOURIST HORSES:** Her Royal Highness Princess Alia will open the new clinic for tourist horses at Petra on Wednesday March 30. The clinic has been established by the London-based Brooke Hospital for Animals to provide medical treatment for these tourist horses.

**POETRY FESTIVAL:** A prominent Jordanian literary figure will take part in Asia Poetry Festival (Kavita Asia) which will open in Bhopal, India, on March 20. The 5-day festival includes discussions on two themes namely "Poetry as Freedom" and "Poetry as Identity." The event is sponsored by the government of India and Bharat Bhavan.

**MEDICAL EXAM:** Some 270 doctors from the East and West Banks of Jordan will sit for the medical board examination which will be held simultaneously in Amman and Jerusalem on March 23 and 24, according to Secretary General of the Jordan Medical Council (JMC) Dr. Hani Oweis.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sunday, March 20 marks the 41st birthday of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Born in Amman on March 20, 1947, Prince Hassan is the youngest brother of His Majesty King Hussein and heir to the throne.

Prince Hassan has played an active role in Jordan's political, economic, military and social affairs.

The Crown Prince's mark on the revitalisation of Jordan's economy has been appreciated at home and abroad.

Prince Hassan's efforts have also focused on the Palestine question. He has made detailed and extensive studies on the issue and is considered an authority on subjects connected with the Israeli occupation of Arab lands and the situation in the occupied territories.



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

## Red Crescent societies to open talks Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — A pan-Arab meeting grouping representatives of Red Crescent and Red Cross societies will open in Amman Sunday, to discuss matters related to their societies activities and cooperation in implementation of humanitarian programmes.

Delegates to the two-day meeting representing Egypt, Mauritania and Libya arrived in Amman Saturday and were greeted by Jordan National Red Crescent Society JNRCS officials.

According to these officials, the delegates will discuss assistance to be extended to the Palestinian people under Israeli rule, specially in light of the current uprising there. They will also review the implementation of earlier meetings held in Qatar in March 1987 and discuss general subjects related to cooperation with international Red Crescent and Red Cross societies.

## Khasawneh inaugurates Palestine Week

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Hani Khasawneh inaugurated the Palestine Week held at the Qadisiyya College in Amman, and wrote a note in the visitors register book underlining the national unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian people on both banks of Jordan.

"Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, is keen to preserve this national unity, which serves as a fundamental guarantee for any national effort towards supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the Israeli occupied Arab territories, and help them to confront the Israeli oppression," Khasawneh noted.

"Jordan is eager to pursue relentless efforts to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people, whose problem remains the main problem for Jordan," he said.

## New driving licence forms to be issued

AMMAN — The Drivers and Vehicles Licence Department will start issuing new driving licence forms in the coming few days department Director Mahmoud Abu Hammour was quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily as saying.

He said that the new form will be more practical and can show the different traffic violations committed by the drivers.

The new form of licence which will appear in Arabic and English is expected to be easier to renew and will save time and effort, Abu Hammour said.

The paper quoted him also as saying that licences of taxis, used to transport passengers on routes outside the main cities, will not be renewed if they are 15 years old or more at present.

Abu Hammour said the department has been issuing new licences for drivers and vehicles through ten security centres in Amman and other cities to ease the congestion and the pressure at the central department in Marka.

## Princess Basma to open Red Crescent Society HQ

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma will open a new headquarters of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society JNRCS for men Thursday, which is designed to recruit young Jordanians to carry out humanitarian activity.

JNRCS Vice-President Mohammad Hadid said the recruited men will carry out rescue and first aid operations to the victims of natural disasters, and will learn about the basic elements of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies work around the world.

He said that the JNRCS aims to set up first aid centres and blood banks in the Kingdom and help people in aiding victims of accidents and natural disasters and other essential work in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

## Ozal discusses cooperation with Jordanian ministers

AMMAN (Petra) — Turkish Minister of State for Planning, Finance and Foreign Trade Youssef Ozal met in Amman Saturday with Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan for a review of Turkish-Jordanian trade and economic relations.

The two ministers also discussed cooperation among countries in the Middle East region in projects of common benefit, according to a Ministry of Planning official.

He said that Ozal briefed Kanaan on Turkey's experiment in transferring the ownership of organisations from the public to the private sector, and said that Turkey was ready to open new avenues in economic cooperation with Jordan.

The two ministers reviewed the adverse effects of the Gulf war on the economic situation in the region and stressed their countries support for all efforts to end the conflict.

Later Ozal met with Minister of Industry and Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaa, and discussed with him financial planning and matters of foreign trade between Turkey and Jordan.

Tabbaa stressed the need for adjusting the balance of trade

between the two countries, which is now in favour of Turkey, and said Jordan would like to increase and diversify its exports to Turkey by selling more cement, pharmaceutical products and material used in drip irrigation and potash.

The two sides discussed Jordan's phosphate exports to Turkey, which this year will reach 800,000 tonnes, and touched on the prospect of setting up a joint Turkish-Jordanian plant for processing phosphoric acid employing Jordanian phosphate.

The two ministers also discussed means of boosting the volume of trade between their countries through the joint Jordanian-Turkish economic committee due to hold meetings here during the month of Ramadan.

The Turkish minister later met with Water and Irrigation Minister Ahmad Dakqan to discuss bilateral cooperation and the exchange of expertise in the field of irrigation.

Dakqan briefed the Turkish minister on Jordan's irrigation experiments and projects.

Later Saturday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received Ozal and discussed with him bilateral relations and issues of concern to the Islamic World.

## Committee discusses Jubilee School project

AMMAN (Petra + J.T.) — A three-member ministerial committee, set up by the government to discuss the implementation of the Jubilee School, held a meeting at Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Saturday and heard a briefing on steps taken for the implementation of the project.

The committee, which groups the ministers of education, planning and labour and social development, discussed proposals submitted for the project and decided on practical steps for coordination among parties involved in the construction of the school.

In January, the NHF distributed awards to three engineering firms for their designs of the

Jubilee School to be established in Jubeha near Amman.

The model secondary school for gifted students will be established in honour of His Majesty King Hussein's deep commitment to education, and in recognition of the great strides made by the country under his leadership.

The school will provide outstanding students from Jordan and other Arab countries with the highest quality education.

As a laboratory school, it will contribute to the development of education throughout the region, according to an NHF official. NHF Director General In'am Al Mufti was among those attending the meeting.

## Ministry of Agriculture seeks to eradicate animal diseases

AMMAN — The Ministry of Agriculture's Animal Health Department is currently carrying out a project, in cooperation with West Germany, for eradicating animal diseases and increasing Jordan's livestock wealth, according to the department's director Ghadoub Asali.

He said the project, which was initiated in 1986, aims to find different types of animal diseases by continual testing of samples taken from them, to deal with

diseases at periodic terms during the year, to work out a wide scale programme for combating contagious diseases, to train veterinarians on modern trends of wiping out animal diseases and to provide new equipment and other requirements for enabling the department carry out this mission.

Asali said the department has set up 12 centres around the country for conducting tests on animals in specialised laboratories.

## Ministry says risk is 'inevitable, but tolerable'

# Jordan Times survey confirms circulation of some undated drugs

By Salameh B. Ne'matt  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Health has said it is ready to look into any complaint of drugs suspected to be expired, but that it had no mechanism to check all drugs without manufacturing and expiry dates and that it could not guarantee that unlabelled drugs were still valid and safe for consumers.

Despite calls by drug quality control experts and pharmacists for the withdrawal of all unlabelled medicines in the market, the ministry says the unlabelled drugs will remain in circulation through Nov. 21, 1988.

The Ministry of Health, following British regulations, had sanctioned the sale of unmarked medicine for five years, ending Nov. 21, 1988, regardless of the manufacturing date of the drug. Invoices examined by the Jordan Times have shown that some unmarked medicines bought by drug agents in 1980, 1981 and 1982 are still in circulation.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said similar regulations were being followed by other countries, including the United States. "It is impossible to check every medicine," Hamzeh told the Jordan Times.

Admitting that there may be a risk involved in the sale of unlabelled medicine, he said that in this case, "risk is inevitable, but tolerable."

Asked whether he can guarantee that unlabelled drugs in the market were not expired, Hamzeh said: "You cannot, because there is no way to guarantee anything unless you go and test every medicine."

### Smuggling of drugs

A well-placed drug expert said there was incontrovertible evidence that some of the medicines being sold in Jordan without manufacturing and expiry dates were already expired, and may, in some cases, constitute a threat to consumers' health.

The expert, who showed the Jordan Times evidence that some undated medicine in circulation was manufactured as far back as 1975, said some such medicines could be dangerous, and should be immediately withdrawn from circulation and destroyed.

The Ministry of Health insists that no unmarked medicine has been allowed into the country after Nov. 21, 1983, though the Jordan Times has examined documents showing some unlabelled medicine that was imported as late as 1987. The ministry said, however, that there may have been illegal smuggling of drugs into the country.

Pharmacists claim that some unlabelled drugs, which could be expired, have not been registered at the Ministry of Health.

There have been press reports recently saying drugs were being illegally smuggled into the country, amidst speculation that some manufacturing companies were copying products of other companies and selling them to drug agents in Third World countries at lower prices.

Informed sources said that several brands of unlabelled medicines, which were proven expired after laboratory tests, are still being sold in Jordanian pharmacies, despite possible threats involved. The sources said that ministry was notified officially about these drugs, but that no action had been taken. Pharmacists say it is up to the ministry to "force drug agents to withdraw their bad drugs."

A drug specialist, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the British recommendations cited for the ministry's permission to keep the unmarked drugs in use was irrelevant and could not be applied in Jordan, because of the absence of a mechanism to check the manufacturing date of these drugs to ascertain their validity, and because of different storage conditions in the Kingdom.

"By letting every unmarked medicine be sold in pharmacies for five years, without testing samples of each medicine, the ministry is wittingly or unwittingly sanctioning the sale of expired drugs," the expert said. "How do you know when the drug was manufactured?"

"We cannot be satisfied by saying all unmarked medicine is valid for five years. What about medicine which is not valid for more than three years, or two, or even one year? How can we take the British recommendations blindly without safeguarding people's health?" he asked.

Hamzeh said that although there were drugs which expire earlier than others, there were drugs whose validity lasted for over ten years.

The drug specialist said that the British recommendation did not

other, and thus "what may be expired in this place may not be so in the other, or vice versa."

"If a drug is expired in one pharmacy, because of storage conditions, we cannot condemn all drug agents and pharmacies," Musmar said.

Hamzeh said he could not rule out the possibility that some of the unlabelled medicines were being illegally smuggled into the country, mainly imitations of drugs manufactured by leading companies.

Medicines said to have been imported after 1983 include Digifar eye drops from the Italian Farmila Company; Virumerz, from Merz Pharma Company, which treats herpes; and Lidothsin Gel, for local anaesthesia from the British Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company. A batch of Virumerz currently in circulation has the expiry date of 1990 stamped with a regular office stamp and a different ink from that traditionally used to stamp manufacturing and expiry dates. Drug specialists said that such illegal stamping on the medicine, believed to have been im-

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## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

# Consequences of bonds secondary market

THE government started to issue bonds and treasury bills two decades ago. Since then a secondary market existed by never developed. Bond owners were always able to liquidate their portfolios at their face value, because the Central Bank stood ready to buy any issue at the fixed price, irrespective of the rate of coupon, term of maturity, accumulated interest, etc.

For some time the Central Bank intervention was justified because it attracted investors to this new instrument and spurred their confidence in the government's paper.

But that practice has outlived its usefulness. In fact it prevented the development of the secondary market in the proper sense. Thus the market was prevented from generating signals about the proper level of interest rate yield as influenced by supply and demand.

Things are changing now. The Central Bank says that it wants to see an active secondary market for government paper, and to leave it to the interaction of supply and demand in a free market. Although the Central Bank issued a circular on Jan. 25, 1988 to establish such secondary market, all that was needed is to leave the market alone, and allow various issues to be traded at various prices as buyers and sellers may agree.

However the habit of intervention in price fixing has not disappeared. The Central Bank could not trust the market, and started unnecessarily to issue a daily yield rate for all maturities, saying that it is only an indicator to guide traders of bonds.

This is not exactly harmful, because it is not binding. Buyers and sellers may agree on any yield they think fit.

Of course the Central Bank should be interested in influencing the prices of bonds, not through a daily predetermined yield rate, but through actual buying and selling in the market. This will not only influence yields but banking liquidity as well, and thus serves as an effective monetary instrument, available to the Central Bank for the implementation of its monetary policy, when it has one.

So far, the market is a sellers market. All banks want to buy but

none wants to sell. The reason is very clear: The bonds were issued at very generous terms: 8 to 8.5 per cent interest, tax exempt, which means over 14 to 15 per cent taxable interest. Why should banks finance businessmen and take the credit risk at nine per cent, if the risk-free bonds can give them much more?

However, the secondary market, if left alone would expose the irony. If the Treasury was ready to play the role of dump borrower, the present owners of its bonds will seek the proper price. It was no surprise to see bonds trading at six per cent above their nominal value. Banks are now competing to buy government papers at an effective maturity yield of five to six per cent, because, unlike the Treasury officials, they understand the real cost of tax.

So far the secondary market of bonds is shallow. The price of bonds is still too low to convince institutional investors to sell, and the habit of trading bonds at face value is preventing prices from rising to their proper level. But this will eventually happen.

When the secondary market becomes active and produces flexible prices, the Jordanian economy will benefit tremendously. It will rid itself from one of its major rigidities. Interest rates will become flexible to reflect market forces. Contrary to unfounded fears, it will not shoot up to extremely high levels that may hinder investments, nor will it drop down to very low levels which may affect savings. It will simply find the proper level which will guarantee the balance between supply and demand.

For some reason, policy makers and economic analysts in Jordan are both scared to death from the possible consequences of equilibrium between supply and demand, not only interest rates but also in every other price.

We trust that the secondary market will show once more that the sky will not fall if people dealt with each other in a free market, as long as the Central Bank is watching and ready to buy and sell, guided by a clear policy and purpose.

## Caring for the one family

THE revelation that some medicines, which do not carry manufacturing or expiry dates, or have expired, are sold in our pharmacies is cause for concern, and should serve as an added reason for the creation of some sort of consumer protection agency in Jordan.

Surely, the findings about the sale of expired medicine in Jordan is not the first of its kind, or the last. There are other goods on Jordanian sales shelves which call for closer scrutiny by an independent agency, in order to protect Jordanian consumers from greedy merchants, insensitive importers or lax officialdom. The quality of our commodities, whether manufactured domestically or imported from foreign markets, obviously requires more watchful eyes. Also, the pricing of goods needs closer scrutiny, in view of the outrageously high prices that Jordanians often have to pay. In many cases, foreign items enjoy a monopoly in our domestic market because there are simply no viable substitutes, and therefore we are obliged to buy them no matter how unreasonable their prices are. It is absurd, for example, to buy a children's book in our book stores for more than two dinars, when the same book has a retail price of around 500 fils in its home market.

If by this newspaper's random survey we detect a flaw in the sale of medicines in our country, whether in quality or price, surely there are other commodities in our shops that await scrutiny and regulation. An independent agency for consumer protection, composed of experienced and qualified people with the highest standards of morality, may be an answer.

We have pursued this story of the unlabelled and outdated medicines as an example of the loopholes that exist in this and all societies, and not because we wish to attack the Health Ministry, the drug importers, the individual pharmacies or the Pharmacists' Association. The point is that the system in place in Jordan today allows some — not many, but some — expired drugs to be sold to consumers who are being subjected to a cruel deception, whether intended or not, and perhaps even to health risks. Instead of the parties passing the blame on to another party, we would think that it is more in keeping with our national character and our system of public authority to bring together the concerned parties in order to work together to plug those loopholes that do exist. For this, in the end, is the real meaning and value of being part of the Jordanian family.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Rai: Hot questions for OIC

THE foreign ministers of the Islamic countries are due to open their meeting in Amman Monday when they will discuss hot questions and issues of concern to the Muslim world. Perhaps the current Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories and the Gulf war will be on top of the ministers' agenda because of their seriousness and the dangers they entail. There might be differences in views among the participants of these two questions, but what is certain is their agreement on supporting the people who are confronting the Israelis and their oppression. In the Palestine question the Islamic countries at large will be lending full backing to the Palestinian people's right to resist occupation, but in the Gulf war the delegates will be faced with the question of reconciling Iraq and Iran, two neighbouring Islamic states locked in battle and bloodshed. We therefore believe that the participants' deliberations over the uprising will be completely different from the Gulf conflict. The uprising should attract material and moral support from all Islamic states to the Palestinian people, while the Gulf war should be dealt with in a manner that can guarantee the dignity of both sides and an end to bloodshed and a total peace which has already been accepted by Iraq alone. The Islamic nations' failure in the past to bring peace between Iraq and Iran should not be cause for desperation, nor should it prompt the two sides to escalate their fighting. Indeed, U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 should form the basis of any peaceful solution that can safeguard the national interests of the two sides.

### Al Dustour: Israel escalates repression

FOLLOWING Israel's failure to stifle the Palestinian uprising by breaking the bones of youth and murdering innocent civilians, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced that his government would impose a siege on Arab civilians and starve the Arab people as a collective punishment designed to end the revolt. Rabin whose troops possess all means of imposing terror and oppression is thus declaring that Israel will be adopting a form of repression far exceeding the worst and the most terrible actions ever adopted by foreign invaders of any country around the world. All this, while the civilised world is looking on and watching the crimes being committed day and night against the civilians without lifting a finger or taking effective actions to stop the atrocities. Perhaps Israel's current measures against the foreign journalists and information media mark the beginning of Rabin's new measures, as they are designed to prevent the outside world from knowing about the reality inside the occupied lands. But we are confident that these barbaric and neo-Nazi measures will not succeed in deterring the Palestinian people from pursuing their struggle for freedom. The steadfast people seem today more determined than ever to win their rights and their freedom again; and Rabin's measures will never stop the resistance which seeks justice.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Rallying Arabs

KING Hussein has held successful talks with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and North Yemen on issues of common concern to the Arab World. The talks helped to corroborate the resolutions of the Amman Arab summit meeting held last November and further bolstered Jordan's links with the two countries. The King's tour was aimed at consolidating Arab countries' stands and boosting their current diplomatic efforts at all levels to serve Arab just causes. The talks in Riyadh and Sanaa centred on Arab affairs and means of reaching a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international conference. The King is keen on maintaining the momentum of diplomatic efforts towards a settlement and this keenness emanates from the Kingdom's concern over the Palestinian people and their rights. The King's moves are also motivated by the current Arab uprising in the Palestinian lands in the face of Israel's oppression. The King is keen on rallying the Arabs in the face of the Israeli challenge and for the sake of ending occupation.

## Islam makes entry into Philippine politics

In the Muslim southern Philippines Islamic fundamentalists have made a controversial entry into party politics by winning office in local elections. Richard Gourlay assesses the strength and nature of the Islamic revival.

MANILA — In a remote Muslim corner of the southern Philippines, teachers of Islam have made a controversial foray into party politics by winning office in the recent local elections. The move has not only disturbed the small Christian minority and the traditional lay Muslim politicians. It is also threatening to provide a more fundamentalist foundation for Muslim insurgents who have been sporadically fighting for independence or autonomy for 15 years.

Dr. Mahid Mutilan, the founder of the Ompia (Reform) party, was causing waves in Marawi City, in backward Lanao del Sur province, even before he beat the administration's candidate last month to become the mayor. He set up the poorly funded party less than two years ago with hundreds of fellow Muslims from mosques throughout the province and some lay Muslims.

For the minority Christians in the city, the Ompia party looks like the tip of an Islamic Fundamentalist iceberg. Behind the self-effacing mildness of its frontmen are more fervent figures who may undermine religious tolerance, fears Father Michel Gignard, a priest who has maintained a tenuous toe-hold for the Catholic church in the city for more than a decade. Traditional Muslim politicians on the other hand, perhaps sensing their days are numbered, say the Ompia party is demeaning the office of Imam, and have told voters that the Holy Koran outlaws party politics. For Dr. Mutilan, however, Marawi City's lack of telephones, street lighting, and drinking water, its potholed roads and neglected schools are testimony to the corruption of the traditional politicians he has now started to unseat. "We are almost in a medieval age," he says. "We are a place forgotten by time."

Only participation in politics by the Imams could remove the corrupt politicians who buy votes — up to \$50 a vote at the January polls — and then recoup the cost, and much more, from public funds when in office, Dr. Mutilan says.

Although he holds a degree from Al Azhar Islamic University in Cairo, Dr. Mutilan plays down any Islamic fundamentalist ambitions and says he does not want to introduce Sharia law. His idea is to run an administration "influenced" by Islamic law while respecting the Philippines constitution. "We are trying to reform the exercise of politics here," he said.

Apart from bringing a whiff of integrity to an area kept on its knees by morally bankrupt officials, he is also likely to be a strong advocate for the Muslims. At 7 per cent of the population,

they make up the country's largest and most turbulent minority.

For the moment, Dr. Mutilan has carefully distanced himself from the three rebel groups which have been at the forefront of the Muslim insurgency since about 1970s at the height of the fighting.

A shaky ceasefire has largely been observed since January 1987. A committee made up of Muslims and Christians is drafting legislation for autonomy in Muslim Mindanao that is called for in the new constitution.

However, the largest rebel group, the Moro National Liberation Front, is growing increasingly edgy. A referendum, required by the constitution, will probably only approve autonomy for the six provinces where there is a Muslim majority. This is a far cry from the 20 provinces initially described as the "Moro homelands," or the 13 provinces that former President Ferdinand Marcos agreed to make autonomous.

With the Muslim insurgency rumbling like a semi-dormant volcano in the background, the election of a mayor who actually sounds as if he might do something for his constituents takes on a greater significance.

The Muslims could never prosper while local politicians had their fingers in the till in collusion with Manila. For this Dr. Mutilan and many others blame Sultan Ali Dimaporo, a loyal Marcos henchman and the appointed governor of Lanao del Sur for ten years.

During Dimaporo's term, non-existent populations sprang out of nowhere — because Manila allocated cement by village.

During his term, Manila disbursed enough money to cement three roads around the picturesque Lanao lake but the old dirt tracks remain undisturbed. In addition, Sultan Dimaporo raided the local university's budget to build a private army called the "Baracudas," his political enemies claim.

Dimaporo denies these charges, saying the funds were pledged before they got to Marawi. But Dr. Mutilan maintains that if this is true, it could only have happened if Dimaporo was in league with officials in Manila. Most of them did not audit payments and were not prompted to do so by Marcos's local henchmen.

Dr. Mutilan is unlikely to give Manila such a smooth ride. The anti-corruption drive that made him mayor in a forgotten town of 80,000 people is inspired by concern for the four million Muslim Filipinos, whose demands he says continue to be ignored in Manila. His zeal is backed up by an implied threat.

"If we cannot get our political rights by political struggle then what can we do?" Dr. Mutilan says when asked if he supports the MNLF's fight. "Now we are experimenting with political struggle" — Financial Times feature.

ONE of Christianity's great mysteries is about to be unravelled — or perhaps made even more enigmatic. This Easter, the traditional anniversary of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary, the Pope is expected to reveal the results of a scientific investigation into the Roman Catholic Church's most treasured — and arguably the most contentious — relic, the so-called Shroud of Turin.

This four-metre length of cloth, kept at Turin Cathedral here in Italy, is believed by many Christians to be the actual material in which Christ's body was wrapped after his crucifixion nearly 2,000 years ago.

The cloth bears clearly recognisable imprints of a man's body, with signs of scourging, nail wounds in the palms and wrists, and a spear wound in the side. When the shroud, which has been in the possession of the church for around 600 years, was last displayed in public in 1978, an eminent Italian scientist announced that he had found traces of blood in certain threads, and another expert claimed to have discovered pollen in some of the fibres.

The cloth has already been subjected to a variety of scientific tests, including X-ray, infra-red and ultra-violet probes. The blood has been identified as human blood of Middle Eastern origin, while the pollen is thought to be of a kind that could only have come from the highly saline area of the Dead Sea.

However, the church has always been reluctant to submit the shroud to scientific testing, fearing that the fabric might be damaged. And there was particular resistance to pressures to allow it to be subjected to the latest radio carbon-dating techniques, in which a fragment of cloth would need to be destroyed.

The Pope caused widespread surprise and controversy in church circles when in October, 1986, he announced that scientists would be allowed to examine the shroud, using carbon-14 dating tests.

Supporters of the decision say that the dating techniques will prove that the cloth was not the product of counterfeiters in the Middle Ages. Their opponents claim that carbon tests will prove nothing because the procedure is not exact enough to establish the material's true age.

Neither side now has long to wait. Laboratories in Britain, Switzerland and the United States have spent the last 18 months analysing minute fragments of the shroud, along with samples of identical weave dating back up to 4,000 years. Only the Vatican knows which of them have been taken from the revered cloth.

How accurate the carbon-dating might prove remains a matter for conjecture. Some experts say the best result can only be to establish age within a period of 150 years.

Others put the possible margin of error as high as 300 years. So the Shroud of Turin might well keep its secret.

## OPEN FORUM

### Is there another physician in town?

AMERICAN Secretary of State George Shultz, late last month, shuttled between concerned capitals of the Middle East. He discussed with the leaders of these states his formula that constituted, in this opinion, a workable restarting point for the much talked about peace process.

It is important to note the diversified reactions by the various parties to the Shultz formula. One essential reaction was the general Arab skepticism with which the renewed American move was received. To most Arabs Shultz cannot and would not take such an initiative without having Israeli interests at the top of his priorities.

Still it is interesting to see that Shultz's mission took place despite and against what could be dictated by conventional wisdom. Back in 1983, when George Shultz's personal image and career were badly hurt because of the abortion of the May 17, 1983 agreement, signed under his auspices, between Israel and the government of Lebanon, the secretary of state maintained an absolute "benign neglect" attitude towards everything related to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The latest Shultz tour in the Middle East broke that line.

Also, many people think that any American administration, during the seasonal presidential campaign, whether that administration was running for office or simply packing, avoids involvement in thorny issues such as the Middle East problem. Once again Shultz had a surprise for those people.

But the question remains: Is this a genuine sincere American interest in putting an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, or is it a mere natural reaction to the dramatic uprising that gripped Israel in the occupied Arab territories? Or did this initiative come in line with the long standing American policy of damage-control?

May be it is premature to jump to conclusions at this juncture. May be it is wiser if everyone concerned listened to Shultz. If the Arabs, for instance, displayed a receptive ear to the "new" American ideas, the ball will fly back to the adversary's court. Most probably, the clearly split Israeli team would have a hard time in hitting back coherently. In earnest one might ask as well, do the Arabs need to seek Shultz's satisfaction for their receptiveness? Not necessarily. But Arab reaction would be monitored by the public opinion in the U.S. and all over the world. A good example was the letter signed by 30 prominent senators addressed directly to the secretary of state, and indirectly to the intransigent attitude of some factions in Israel, represented, in this case, by the person of the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir.

No one can predict how this hard-ball game between the State Department and the Shamir faction of the Israeli government will end, even after Shamir ends his visit to Washington. It is worth watching. Meanwhile for those well-intentioned friends who are, with good reason, not impressed with Shultz's practice, I say is there another physician in town?

Salim Ayoub

## Lebanese town is haven for leftists

By Hasan Mroue  
The Associated Press

RMEILEH, Lebanon — In the chaos and intolerance that is Lebanon, Rmeileh is an oasis of social and political liberty, a haven for leftists and others fleeing persecution and assassination.

This nondescript coastal town, 32 kilometres south of Beirut, is a remnant of what Lebanon used to be before 13 years of civil war, sectarian hatreds and religious fanaticism turned it into a wilderness.

Leftist exiles and other refugees from Beirut and the south have fled to Rmeileh, following a campaign of assassinations against Communists, pro-Iraqi Baath Socialists and other leftists by Shiite fundamentalists spreading Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's stern brand of Islam and other Shiite factions.

One of the first things that shows the traveller that Rmeileh is different from just about everywhere else in South Lebanon is alcohol. It's sold openly at the side of the road.

Alcohol is banned in most of the region, which is dominated by Shiite factions, and in Beirut's southern slums, the Shiite stronghold in the capital.

Islamic religious laws banning mixed parties and mixed bathing, even women wearing swimming costumes, the consumption of pork and other strict moral codes are strictly enforced in Shiite areas.

But in the summer, Rmeileh's eight restaurants and five kilometres of Mediterranean beaches and hillside picnic areas are packed with people having a good time.

Hamza, 35, who comes from the staunchly Shiite town of Nabatieh in the south, said: "We can't buy drinks in Nabatieh any more, so we come to Rmeileh. In summer women have to come here to swim because it's the one of the very few places they can do that."

Because he lives in a Shiite area, where such activities are forbidden, Hamza declined to disclose his family name.

Until 1985, when Muslim forces overran the coastal plain, Rmeileh was a mainly Christian town of about 5,000 Maronite Catholics. Now there are only 60 Maronite families left.

Rmeileh is protected by Communist Party militiamen, most of them Christians, who are allied to neighbouring Druze and Sunni Muslim forces who help keep the Shiites out.

The Syrian army also has a checkpoint just south of Rmeileh on the Awali River, which also acts as a deterrent to Shiite gunmen.

Abu Rim, a leftist official in the town, said 500 refugee families — Muslims, Christians and Palestinians — live in Rmeileh with the local Christians.

"Our aim is to get rid of the sectarian atmosphere and implement co-existence," he said. Elias Tabet, director of the

town's government school, said that ethnic mix gives Rmeileh a non-sectarian nature, where people from different areas and religions "feel safe and free."

Samir Germanos, 57, a Christian who fled Beirut's Shiite-controlled southern slums, said: "We're very happy and hope things will stay this way."

Rmeileh's acting mayor, Halim Kleib, said: "The tourist influx last summer was even better than it was in pre-war times."

"People in the south prefer Rmeileh to other places because it's the closest resort to them which provides restaurants and private beaches as well as drinks," Kleib added.

Ali Hujerri, 40, a father of nine who works at a Pepsi Cola plant in a nearby town, said: "I sell alcohol on the street as my second job. Most of the people who come here to buy alcohol are from the south."

"I'm the only one to sell pork meat in this area. I started bringing it from Mount Lebanon last week and in four days, I sold around 40 kilograms," said Abu Elie, 32, who opened a small snack shop on the main coastal highway last year.

Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Amal Movement has been blamed for many of the assassinations of leftists in South Lebanon. Amal calls the people who fled "self-deportees."

Since many are skilled or professional people, including doctors and teachers, Amal recently asked them to return to their villages.

The extremist Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, is also thought to be responsible for some of the killings.

Hikmat Al Amin, a Communist doctor from Kfar Rumman, near Nabatieh, said his Swiss wife and children had to join him in exile because they had been harassed by gunmen since he fled a year ago.

Wafiq Rihan, a Shiite who fled Nabatieh last year, said: "Amal has been pressured to invite us back. A few who had big families and had to resume their work returned."

Rihan, 33, said that the Communists and the leftist Druze "helped us find places to stay and in the beginning we relied on Red Cross supplies."

"I'm teaching at the school now. I was originally a teacher. But most of the other deportees here are also working in their particular fields, medicine, the law, and so on."

"One doctor who fled Nabatieh even has some of his old patients come here to see him for treatment."

Rihan, whose three children still live with their mother in Nabatieh, shares a poorly furnished apartment near an abandoned church, Saint Anthony's, with another refugee.

He said he wants to go back to his own village when it's safe.

But, in a country, carried up into sectarian cantons and where old hatreds die hard, Rihan may have to wait a long time.



## U.S. voices 'concern' over spread of missiles in Mideast

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States is concerned with the spread of advanced missile technology in the Middle East, including the acquisition by Saudi Arabia of new Chinese models, the State Department said Friday.

Department spokesman Charles Redman confirmed to reporters a Washington Post story that Saudi Arabia is buying from China CSS-2-class surface-to-surface missiles that are capable of carrying nuclear warheads up to 3,500 kilograms.

But Redman said both China and Saudi Arabia has assured the United States that nuclear tips were not planned for the missiles, which have yet to be deployed.

He said that Secretary of State George Shultz had raised U.S. concerns about the missile sale earlier this month with Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian. Similar concerns were expressed to Saudi Arabia "at the highest levels," he said.

Asked if these concerns were also made clear to Israel which deploys a similar missile called the Jericho, Redman said, "We have urged restraint on everyone."

The United States has urged China to stop selling Silkorm missiles to Iran which allowed it to attack Gulf shipping near the narrow Strait of Hormuz. China never admitted selling Silkorms to Iran, but later announced it stopped the sales.

The acquisition of the Chinese missiles by Saudi Arabia "is part of a disturbing regional trend in surface-to-surface missile proliferation that threatens the security of all the states in the region," Redman said.

The continuing conflict between Iran and Iraq is "perhaps the most compelling example of this disturbing trend," he said. Surface-to-surface missiles have been used by both sides "in relatively large numbers and have caused considerable damage and devastation," Redman pointed out.

In recent weeks, both Iran and Iraq have stepped up their so-called "war of the cities."



Palestinian women struggle to resist an arrest by Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank

## British Muslims accuse Israel of racist, state-controlled terrorism

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A delegation of British Muslims, including former pop music star Cat Stevens, has accused Israel of "racist, state-controlled terrorism" in its suppression of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The nine-member delegation called Friday for returning the occupied territories and Israel "to its rightful owners, who have been driven out of it." Several suggested that Jews who came to

Palestine after Israel's creation in 1948 should have to apply for permission to stay.

"It brings tears to me to see what is happening to my brothers and sisters here," said Stevens, who converted to Islam and changed his name to Yusuf Islam. "What I see here is a denunciation and rebelliousness against God, a turning away from God."

Group spokesman Ibrahim Hewitt, head of the London-based Islamic Circle Educational

Organisation, said the group did not officially represent Islamic groups but had the support of many British Muslims. He said the group had not met any Israeli officials, fearing their trip to the occupied territories might be blocked.

He drew gasps from reporters at the Jerusalem news conference when he said in a prepared statement: "The Jews seem neither to respect God nor his creation."

The group accused Israel of depriving Palestinians of essential

services, indiscriminately raiding houses and torturing and beating prisoners.

Among others in the delegation were Sahib Mustaqim Bleher, chancellor of Muslim Educational Services; Isa Darby, chairman of the Islamic Organisation for Media Monitoring; Mohammed Ata'ullah, manager of an Islamic resort centre in Birmingham, England, and Abdullah Powell, chairman of an Islamic youth training group.

## Denktash favours new approach to Cypriot talks

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish leader Rauf Denktash has called for a new basis for negotiations with Greek Cypriots, north Cyprus newspapers reported Saturday.

The opposition Kibris Postasi newspaper said the change of policy followed pressure on Denktash to soften his stance from a special envoy of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

Denktash has so far based policy on the U.N. secretary general's March 29, 1986 document proposing a bi-zonal, federal future for the divided island.

Cyprus President George Vassiliou, elected in Greek Cypriot south Cyprus in February, has said the U.N. proposals are in-

valid.

"Under the circumstances, the need arises for the presentation of a new document. If they want a dialogue, they can come up with-out any preconditions," Denktash was quoted as telling Turkish Cypriot reporters.

Denktash is president of the Turkish republic of north Cyprus, unilaterally declared in 1983 on territory occupied by the Turkish army in 1974 and recognised only by Ankara.

Ankara says it intervened to protect the Turkish minority, believing that leaders of a Greek Cypriot coup in Nicosia threatened to unite Cyprus with Greece.

Denktash said Turkish troops would only withdraw after a mutually acceptable final solution to the Cyprus problem was reached, guaranteed by Turkey.

Vassiliou visited Athens last week in the first foray into international diplomacy by the millionaire business consultant who was elected as an independent with communist backing last month on his first entry into politics.

During the visit, he received lavish praise from Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu as well as the leaders of the Greek opposition parties, with whom he had conferred separately during his visit.

## Arabs urge UNDP to cancel pact with Israel

CASABLANCA, Morocco (R) — Arab governments urged the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Friday to cancel a technical agreement concluded with Israel last month.

A statement issued by delegates attending a UNDP conference of Arab countries expressed indignation that the accord was concluded while Israeli troops were engaged in putting down the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Over 100 Palestinians have been killed since the uprising began more than three months ago.

"The agreement is damaging and contains numerous violations and distortions which Arab representatives at the United Nations had previously brought to the UNDP's attention," the statement said. "It should therefore be cancelled."

The three-day conference, attended by representatives of 20 Arab countries, was called by the UNDP to discuss a \$45 million development programme for the Arab region for the next four years.

Under an agreement signed at the United Nations Feb. 22, Israel will provide technical assistance to African states which request it, with the UNDP acting as intermediary.

A UNDP spokesman said the statement would be referred to the programme's headquarters in New York.

# Mahdi may be forced to propose national unity government

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi will probably propose a government of national unity because of opposition to an earlier reform plan, an opposition leader predicted Saturday.

Hassan Al Tourabi, head of the militant National Islamic Front (NIF), said both his party and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), a member of the ruling coalition, would vote against the plan if it came before parliament.

Mahdi told parliament Tuesday he would quit if deputies rejected his two-year reform plan calling for a new broad-based government to tackle national problems.

But Tourabi said Mahdi was now aware of the intentions of the DUP and the NIF and would probably present an alternative plan providing for a national unity government.

Mahdi had suggested Monday for a debate on his proposals, which came seven months after the partnership between the DUP and his Umma Party collapsed. The cabinet, however, has continued to function under an agreement between Mahdi and DUP patron Mohammad Osman Al Mirghani to avoid a constitutional vacuum.

Tourabi, who described Mahdi's reform plan as a mere agenda, said it was now most likely parliament would postpone debate on it.

Executive powers Local press reports quoted DUP officials as saying Mahdi's proposals were chiefly designed to widen his executive powers and had been unveiled without consultations with their leaders.

Mahdi's proposals aim to revive the economy and end civil war in the mainly animist or Christian south, where the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) is fighting what it sees as domination by the largely Muslim north.

A vote against the proposals by the DUP, with 62 seats, and the NIF with 52, would leave Mahdi to choose but to form a minority government with the backing of southern Sudanese parties holding a total of 36 seats.

Umma has 101 of the 301 seats in parliament. Voting in southern constituencies has been postponed indefinitely due to the war.

"Even if Mahdi wins the vote it will be the basis for a minority government which is something that does not work in Sudan," Tourabi told Reuters in an interview.

He said he learned of the DUP's intention to vote against Mahdi's proposals when he met Mirghani Friday after seeing Mahdi the previous day.

DUP leaders were not available to comment.

Tourabi said Mahdi and Mirghani had discussed including the NIF in a broad-based government to replace the present coalition.

He said NIF leaders were expected to receive formal proposals from Umma and the DUP in the next two days and joint committees would be set up to finalise details.

Mahdi had in the past proposed including the NIF in government but had to bow to the objections of Umma deputies.

Tourabi said he believed both Umma and the DUP were now more willing to let his party join them.

Previous opposition was based mainly on Tourabi's political record. He held senior government posts under the regime of Jaafar Numeiri, ousted in 1985 after 16 years.

"The number of people within Umma in favour of cooperation with the front has increased," Tourabi said.



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan pictured in front of the Pyramids of Cheops at Giza

## UAE leader ends Egypt visit

CAIRO (R) — United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan left Cairo for home Saturday at the end of a week-long visit.

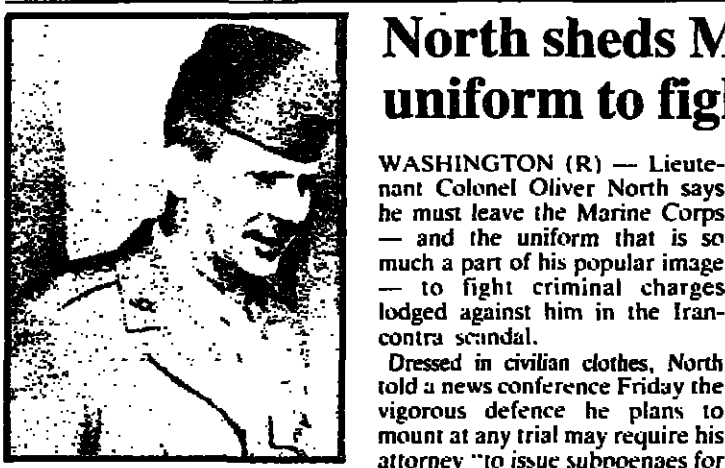
Sheikh Zayed, during his stay, discussed boosting economic relations with President Hosni Mubarak. Ministers signed an agreement to expand bilateral trade, now at a level of \$24 million a year.

The national Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted Information Minister Safwat Sharif

as saying a team from the Abu Dhabi Development Fund would visit Egypt next week to study joint projects.

Sheikh Zayed instructed the fund to channel investments to agricultural production in Egypt, Sharif said. The team will study reclamation of up to 215,000 acres.

Mubarak and Sheikh Zayed also called for a united Arab stand to help achieve a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq war.



Oliver North

## North sheds Marine Corps uniform to fight charges

WASHINGTON (R) — Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North says he must leave the Marine Corps — and the uniform that is so much a part of his popular image — to fight criminal charges lodged against him in the Iran-contra scandal.

Dressed in civilian clothes, North told a news conference Friday the vigorous defence he plans to mount at any trial may require his attorney "to issue subpoenas for the testimony and records of the

highest-ranking officials of our government."

He did not specify whether that dragnet might include President Ronald Reagan, but North said the prospect of going after top U.S. officials "strikes me as...incompatible with my continued service as a marine officer."

"Accordingly, with great sadness, I have tendered my request to retire from the Marine Corps," The 44-year-old North will have served 20 years in the corps.

Continued from page one

## King meets Pirzada, Sytenko

(Continued from page 1) Soviet roving ambassador Mikhail Sytenko, who briefed the King on the Geneva talks on Afghanistan and Moscow's decision to withdraw its forces from that country. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attended the audience.

Jordan has welcomed the Soviet decision describing it as a "wise and courageous" step by the Soviet leadership.

The King later received Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) Director General Abdul Hadi Bou Taleb.

While the undersecretaries of the OIC states began drawing up an agenda for the foreign ministers meeting, Pirzada has been conducting extensive behind-the-scenes talks to facilitate positive developments in major issues to be discussed by the conference.

Pirzada held 90 minutes of talks with Sytenko on the latest developments in the Geneva

talks, the OIC spokesman said. The meeting was attended by the Soviet ambassador to Jordan. The OIC spokesman declined further comment.

A delegation representing Afghan rebels is invited to attend the foreign ministers meeting, according to the OIC spokesman.

Pirzada also met with the Bulgarian ambassador to Jordan Saturday and it was believed that discussions dealt with the situation of Muslims in Bulgaria and recommendations made by an OIC-appointed contact group to deal with the issue.

A member of the Turkish delegation to the Amman conference said the issue of Muslims in Bulgaria was expected to be included in the agenda for the foreign ministers.

Pirzada also met Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and discussed with him arrangements for the foreign ministers conference. He also met with members of various delegations.

## Officials draft OIC agenda

(Continued from page 1) headed by Nimer, includes the representatives of Senegal, Brunei and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as vice-chairmen and the Moroccan representative as rapporteur.

After the election process was completed, the meeting was held behind closed doors. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that the major issues discussed during the meeting included the Palestinian problem and the developments in the Middle East.

Israel's occupation of Arab territories, including South Lebanon, and issues related to the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Iran-Iraq war.

The meeting also discussed economic issues in the Islamic World and means of improving cooperation among Islamic countries and issues related to the OIC finances.

Following the morning session, Nimer told Petra that the meeting also discussed the issue of Israel's occupation of Jerusalem and other Islamic holy places and shrines, the Afghanistan situation, international terrorism in all its forms and variations and Israel's nuclear build-up.

Delegates from Iraq and Iran attended Saturday's meeting. The Iraqi delegation was led by Foreign Ministry International Relations Department Director-General Riyadh Al Qaysi while the Iranian team was led by a low-level official. Iran's chief delegate

to the foreign ministers meeting is Sheikh Mohammad Ali Al Tashkiri, head of the international relations section of the Religious Guidance Ministry in Tehran. Speaking to reporters Saturday morning, Tashkiri reiterated the country's stand that Iraq be condemned as "the aggressor" in the war before Tehran would agree to a ceasefire.

Qaysi, asked whether the two delegations will meet in Amman, told Reuters: "It's not a question of meeting, it's a question of whether the Iranian government is ready to accept peace and so far they haven't."

"Our stand has always been that while we defend ourselves we continue to sue for peace, and it falls upon the international community to impose on those who do not want peace," he added.

Sources close to the meeting said the conflict between Libya and Chad was removed from the agenda for the foreign ministers since the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) is spearheading a high-level effort to settle the conflict.

In the meantime, a Burmese organisation said to represent Muslims in the country has sent an appeal to the OIC to permit it to have observer status in the pan-Islamic body. A copy of the appeal was available to the Jordan Times in Amman.

## Philippines problem unfolds in Amman

(Continued from page 1) said he was carrying a written message from President Corazon Aquino to His Majesty King Hussein over the OIC meeting in Amman. He declined to divulge the contents of the letter other than saying it was to be delivered later.

Meanwhile, Misuari, who is heading an eight-member delegation to the OIC meeting, said he believed the Aquino government was preparing to resume, what he termed, "a wide-scale genocidal war" against the Mindanao region.

The Philippine ambassador dismissed the MNLF's charges of military build-up of more than 64,000 troops in the south as "regular army deployment."

Saez expected that the Philippine Congress to enact a bill on

autonomy for the 13-province region by December 1988. A plebiscite in the region in question will follow in 1989 to decide the final status of the area, in conformity with the amended constitution which was passed last year by the 275-member parliament. The 25-member Senate include two Muslim members and eight Muslim congressmen are elected from constituency for the House of Representatives, according to the ambassador.

Diplomatic sources estimated that the MNLF has 10,000 fighters.

Saez said his government appreciated the OIC's "objectives of extending moral and financial support for Muslim minorities, but not to the point to encourage them to separate from their countries."

## Habib briefs Egyptian leaders

(Continued from page 1) Shultz insisted Friday that his Middle East peace initiative had not failed despite the seemingly unyielding objections from Shamir.

Asked in an interview with Reuters and Visnews, the international television agency, if his Middle East initiative was on the brink of failure, Shultz replied: "No... because it's the only game in town."

Shamir left Washington Thursday after four days of talks with U.S. officials in which he continued to object to key elements of the Shultz-authored peace plan, including a proposed international conference and the concept of trading Israeli-occupied lands for peace.

Shultz said Shamir had said "he wants to keep working on it (the peace initiative) even though he has registered his strong views."

Palestinians who are key to any peace talks have insisted the U.S. initiative will fail if the Palestine Liberation Organisation is not allowed to participate.

But Shultz said he remained optimistic that an alternative U.S. proposal for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation "was

certainly quite possible."

Bahrain: PLO is key

Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa said Saturday that U.S. policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict had changed for the better, but said Washington would have to recognise the PLO if peace efforts are to progress.

"I think that there has been a fundamental change in American public opinion," he said in a British broadcasting Corporation interview.

"Without U.S. recognition of the PLO, we will remain far away from peace," he commented.

Eban favours exchange

In Brussels, former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said Saturday it was in his country's interest to trade territory for peace in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Speaking at an international forum organised by a Brussels Jewish group, he said: "It is because of Israeli interests that we renounce and reject the idea of a 100 per cent monopoly by Israel of all the territory and all the sovereignty."

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AMMAN JORDAN



## African countries step up bid for international debt dialogue

**NAIROBI (R)** — African nations are stepping up efforts to stage an international conference on their crippling foreign debt despite a cool response from creditors.

Finance and foreign ministers from 12 African nations are to meet in Zambia Monday in a fresh bid for a breakthrough in the three-year-old initiative.

The aim is apparently to introduce some collective bargaining to loan talks, under which debtor countries currently negotiate individually with donors such as the Paris Club of official creditors.

"If you go to Paris (now) then you are going in the capacity of an unaccompanied debtor to stand trial before a council of creditors... like a client unaccompanied by a lawyer," complained Zambia's Finance Minister Gibson Chigaga last month.

The two-day talks follow a special summit of the 49-nation Organisation of African Unity (OAU) last December on the \$200 billion debt of the world's poorest continent.

This represents a more than fifteen-fold rise since 1970, when it was only \$13 billion in the red, Chigaga noted.

According to the Addis Ababa-based U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, African countries now spend on average some 40 per cent of their export earnings

on servicing the debt.

The cost is crippling for a continent trying to breathe life into stagnant economies, exhausted by rapid population growth and a slump in world prices for oil, farm and metal exports, and facing civil strife and growing ranks of refugees and the hungry.

Africa's official and commercial creditors, mainly Western, have shown little enthusiasm for an international debt conference since it was first proposed in 1985.

They apparently prefer to deal with each country separately, if only to avoid setting a precedent that could be exploited by Latin American big debtors.

U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker said two weeks ago there was no magic formula to the global debt crisis, and urged a continued case-by-case strategy.

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), who is at the forefront of efforts to find new ways to solve the dilemma, said last month the adaptability of the case-by-case approach should not be underestimated.

At the Lusaka talks will be

ministers from Africa's top debtors — Nigeria and Egypt — and Algeria, Congo, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Zaire and Zambia.

The last seven are among what the World Bank calls the 22 most "debt distressed" of the 40-odd countries south of the Sahara.

Next week's talks follow action by both official and commercial creditors to relax terms on Africa's debt and new initiatives by the World Bank, the IMF and the African Development Bank.

These are expected to open taps to \$3 billion a year in fresh aid for sub-Saharan Africa alone.

But at least \$2 billion more is needed annually to meet the region's needs, said a special panel set up by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar last April to study Africa's economic woes.

The Lusaka meeting is expected to shape a draft agenda, and suggest a date for the proposed international debt conference.

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, as current OAU chairman, then hopes to tour Europe before May to woo creditors' support.

He will be hoping for a better response than shown by African heads of state at the OAU's own debt crisis summit in December, when only nine leaders attended. The rest sent envoys.

### AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

**AMMAN (I.T.)** — The start of the week was a disappointing day as only a total of 218,226 shares were traded for a volume of JD 269,219 spread over 289 contracts.

Although shares of 46 companies were traded Saturday only two companies figured prominently, namely: The Jordan Cement Factories Company (48,301 shares for JD 52,119 covered by 43 deals) and the Jordan Sulpho Chemical (19,388 shares for JD 53,912 covered by 20 transactions).

Trading in the Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries shares amounted to 47,800 shares but the volume stood only at JD 11,472 spread over 25 contracts. Universal Insurance ranked in fourth place at 15,000 shares with all the rest of the companies falling under the level of 8,000 shares.

As to volume, Jordan Paper and Cardboard Company ranked third for a total of JD 21,497 followed by Cairo Amman Bank for JD 13,080.

Trading at the parallel market amounted to 37,700 shares for a total of JD 28,162.

## Jordan Cement Factories improves financial image

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) last year repaid all its overdue debts and loan instalments with interest and realised a net profit of JD 8 million which accounts for 16 per cent of the capital, according to JCFC Director-General Khalidoun Al Thaher.

He said that this successful performance enables the company to distribute dividends to shareholders at the rate of eight per cent and to transfer JD 2.75 million to the reserve accounts.

In 1985, he said, the JCFC borrowed JD 2.75 million to distribute dividends to the shareholders because during that year the company sustained a loss of JD 622,202 and had to distribute dividends at the rate of six per cent only.

In 1986, the company distributed a similar percentage but was able to make up for the 1985 losses and to pay back JD 143,615 taken from the company's reserves.

In general, Thaher said, JCFC repaid \$64 million of foreign debts and JD 19 million of local loans in addition to interests during the past year.

According to the JCFC director-general the company now sells cement to a number of Arab countries. A Jordanian-Egyptian agreement provides for the sale of 750,000 tonnes of cement to Egypt, but this will be increased by 20 per cent under a new amendment to be signed by the end of this month, Thaher noted.

He added that North Yemen will buy 200,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement under a contract with JCFC and Iraq and Sudan are buying unspecified quantities in accordance with their needs.

Thaher noted that the company was facing transport problems specially between the Rashadieh mines and Aqaba due to insufficient lorries specially made for such operations. He also complained of fines which the company pays now and then for loading delays at Aqaba.

At present, he said, 3,000 tonnes are being transported from Rashadieh to Aqaba on a daily basis.

Thaher proposed the establishment of a special silo at Aqaba where cement can be stored until vessels are ready to take them from the port, and so avoid paying fines on delays at Aqaba harbour.

Thaher also outlined different measures being taken by JCFC to reduce pollution, resulting from cement dust, over the city of Fuhais and other residential areas around the mines in other parts of the country.



**Khalidoun Thaher**

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## Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

**AMMAN (I.T.)** — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, March 12, '88 and ending Tuesday, March 15, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
<b>Banking and financial institutions</b>					
Industrial Development Bank	50	67	1,340	1,340	1,000
Petra Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	2140	3766	1,760	1,760	1,000
Jordan Kwait Bank	2120	3371	1,590	1,590	1,000
Jordan Gulf Bank	1572	1886	1,200	1,200	1,000
Housing Bank	5850	9360	1,600	1,600	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Cairo Amman Bank	1027	30810	30,000	30,000	5,000
Bank of Jordan	522	8474	16,320	16,320	5,000
Arab Bank	920	104682	114,250	113,500	10,000
Jordan National Bank	3398	8300	2,450	2,450	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	6000	8140	1,850	1,870	1,000
Finance and Credit Corporation	10713	6351	0,590	0,580	1,000
National Financial Investments	217500	424381	1,850	1,830	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	2623	2197	0,850	0,830	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2,000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10,000
<b>Insurance and reinsurance</b>					
Jordan French Insurance	4857	26916	5,600	5,470	1,000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	2410	2258	0,920	0,940	1,000
Yemenek Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	203	197	0,960	0,970	1,000
Jerusalem Insurance	5223	6879	1,310	1,300	1,000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Universal Insurance	625	450	0,730	0,720	1,000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10,000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10,000
Al-Iddhar Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Ahliya Insurance	1150	1452	1,260	1,260	1,000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
<b>Services and industries</b>					
General Investments	2000	2660	1,340	1,330	1,000
Imma for Investment and Financial Facilities	—	—	—	—	1,000
Darco for Housing and Investment	14642	6589	0,460	0,450	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	2433	1022	0,430	0,420	1,000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	9150	3020	0,340	0,330	1,000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	4596	3562	0,720	0,770	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	61463	11369	0,690	0,680	1,000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeeroo	8750	2807	0,840	0,820	1,000
Jordanian Electric Power	3177	4670	1,470	1,470	1,000
Irbid District Electricity	500	480	0,960	0,960	1,000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1,000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1,000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	5800	5030	0,870	0,850	1,000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	8495	3456	0,410	0,400	1,000
Jordan Dairy	10519	10832	1,030	1,020	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	4554	9563	2,100	2,100	1,000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	145150	215942	1,540	1,480	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	1671	3829	2,350	2,250	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	2558	3706	1,460	1,440	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	1250	5463	4,400	4,350	1,000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1,000
Aladdin Industries	30630	42266	1,400	1,390	1,000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	40061	75578	1,890	1,860	1,000
Jordan Worst Mills	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	4473	4742	1,060	1,050	1,000
Chemical Industries	22946	40088	1,780	1,740	1,000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	5000	3645	0,750	0,720	1,000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	2625	3935	1,530	1,490	1,000
National Steel Industries	104923	306618	2,850	2,900	1,000
Universal Chemical Industries	36600	66062	1,850	1,780	5,000
<b>General Mining</b>					
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	1761	12492	7,080	7,070	1,000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	411714	105859	0,250	0,260	1,000
National Industries	2000	1000	0,500	0,500	1,000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	8600	3166	0,380	0,370	1,000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	5440	7262	1,340	1,320	1,000
Livestock and Poultry	90	68	0,740	0,750	1,000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	1854	2182	1,190	1,170	1,000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	2691	8513	3,080	3,190	1,000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	25100	16753	0,670	0,650	1,000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1,000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1,000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	5,000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1,000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	13900	14024	1,010	1,000	1,000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	12450	11838	0,950	0,930	1,000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	24919	69741	3,040	3,030	1,000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	43711	46782	1,070	1,060	1,000
Jordan Cement Factories	3750	3828	1,030	1,020	1,000
Jordan Glass Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
<b>Grand total</b>		1,361,206	1,790,962		

## Spanish company fights Kuwaiti bid

**MADRID (R)** — Spain's second largest food company acted Friday to fend off a takeover bid by the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO).

The board of Ebro Compania De Azucres Y Alcoholicos S.A. said it had agreed to increase the company's share capital by 40 per cent by raising the nominal value of its issued shares through a transfer from reserves.

It also advised shareholders not to accept KIO's offer, made through its main investment arm

in Spain, paper pulp company Torras Hostench S.A., which it controls.

"The Torras offer... does not reflect the real value or the prospects for the future of the company," Ebro said.

The KIO places Kuwait's petrodollars in investments worldwide and recently built a stake of more than 20 per cent in British-based oil multinational British Petroleum Co. Plc. (B.P.).

Ebro controls one-third of the

Spanish sugar market.

KIO has offered 30,000 pesetas (\$268) a share to boost its stake in it to 51 per cent from 20 per cent. The shares were trading at 19,000 pesetas (\$170) Monday before the Madrid Bourse suspended trading pending the takeover offer.

**ARE**



## Sulayem wins Kuwait International Rally

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a final hour drama, as the results of the Kuwait International Rally were confirmed Saturday night, Mohammed Bin Sulayem and Roman Morgan, driving the Marlboro/BF sponsored Toyota Celica Turbo were declared winners after a protest, entered by Toyota team Middle East manager, Terry Plant, was upheld by the organizers.

The story behind the drama went back to time control 16 during Saturday's stages when Saeed Al Hajri's Audi Quattro entered the time control one minute early, thereby incurring the mandatory "two-minute" penalty under section 17B of the regulations.

Until then, Al Hajri had been leading, and had indeed been declared the provisional winner having spent the day taking advantage of the Quattro's exceptional grip in the slippery dust of the stages. Bin Sulayem, driving flat-out all day just could not get the greater power of the Toyota to convert into sufficient traction to increase his 18 second lead of Thursday night, and had to watch

helplessly as Al Hajri ate up the seconds, widening the gap to give him a 76 second lead by the end of the day.

Nonetheless, a win is a win, and Sulayem is now set to push just as hard in the next event, in Jordan.

Meanwhile, away from other two main protagonists, further down the field, both Michel Saleh (Audi) and Abbas Al Mousawi (Talbot) had strokes of bad luck when they went out on stages 8 and 10, Saleh with a blown engine, and Al Mousawi with a repetition of his unfortunate departure from the Qatar event, when a front suspension strut broke.

This left the running clear for Qatari Sultan Al Suwaidi in his Group 4 Toyota Celica to earn himself some valuable championship points with a brilliant drive to third place.

A disappointing result, then, for Al Hajri who was clearly driving on top form, and another win, and of course the points, for Sulayem and Toyota. In the words of every enthusiast "that's rallying"...

Official result	Time
1. Mohammed Bin Sulayem/Roman Morgan/Toyota Celica	1:54.37
2. Saeed Al Hajri/Steve Bond/Audi Quattro	1:55.21
3. Sultan Al Suwaidi/Dave Orrick/Toyota Celica	2:19.25
4. Josef Miskulnig/Klaus Schwingschloegl/Nissan 240RS	2:19.52
5. Faez Chibah/Hanna Chibah/Mitsubishi	2:30.04
6. Ahmad Al Nasser/Bader Al Zaidi/Mitsubishi	2:44.44

## 'Fast Freddie' Spencer retires

SHREVEPORT (R) — Three-time world motorcycle racing champion Freddie Spencer announced Wednesday his retirement from the sport.

"I've been racing hard for the better part of 20 years," the American rider known worldwide as "Fast Freddie" said, in making his surprise announcement. "It's time I gave my body a rest."

Spencer said he made his retirement decision before next week's season opener in Suzuka, Japan, after suffering severe tendonitis in his right wrist during recent machine testing in Australia.

Spencer underwent wrist surgery in 1986 and was sidelined for the season. But despite the surgery he developed tendonitis in the wrist and the recurring problems from it led him to retire.

"After the HRC (Honda Racing Corp) training programme in California this winter, I felt fit and was eager for the season to begin. But I expect a certain level of performance from myself, with the only objective being to win the world title," he said.

## Jordan nests 9 medals

DAMASCUS (J.T.) — Jordanian athletes won nine medals in the ninth Arab Cross Country Tournament held in Syria Friday. Jordanian women participants displayed their strength brilliantly by snatching six medals — four gold, one silver and one bronze. The male participants contributed their share too, by winning two silver medals and one bronze medal.

In a target shooting tournament held in Cairo, Egypt Friday, Jordan won the gold and bronze medals.

## Volleyball tournament begins

AJLOUN (Petra) — A two-day volleyball tournament for female students in public and private community colleges in Jordan opened here Saturday.

The first day's games (best of three), Huwwara Community College beat Al Andalos College and the Amman Training College beat Cordoba.

## Iraq beats Bahrain in Gulf Soccer Cup

RIYADH (R) — Iraq won the Gulf Soccer Cup Friday with a 1-0 victory over Bahrain.

Experienced Iraq made its way to the top unbeaten in six games with 10 points in the seven-team Round Robin Championship.

It was the third time the Iraqis had won the cup since the competition started in 1970.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) finished in second place with eight points and hosts Saudi Arabia third with seven.

Laith Hussein scored the winning goal for Iraq, calmly pushing in a cross from forward Karim Allawi in the 49th minute.



Steffi Graf



Yannick Noah

## Graf struggles while Noah steals the show

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) — Top-seeded Steffi Graf struggled in the first set before beating South African Rosalyn Fairbank 7-6 (7-4), 6-0 Friday, but the charismatic Frenchman Yannick Noah was the focus of attention in the third round of the \$2.1 million International Players Championships.

The sixth-seeded Noah displayed his usual acrobatic, brilliant tennis in his win over No. 27 seed Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia 7-6 (7-4), 6-2, 6-2.

Eight seeds fell in both men's and women's singles.

Argentine Martin Jaite was upset by No. 26 seed Ramesh Krishnan of India 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3, and American Zina Garrison was surprised by South African Elina Reinach, the world 75, 1-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Graf, the world's number one, had problems with her normally devastating groundstrokes as Fairbank repeatedly won points on unforced errors by Graf.

However, by the end of the tiebreaker, which Graf won 7-0, the 18-year-old West German had found her rhythm and taken control of the match.

Noah, world 11, started slowly and was pushed to a tiebreak in the first set, which had no breaks of serve, but lifted his game in the second and third sets to eliminate Smid.

Noah controlled the last two sets so soundly that he began hitting trick shots to entertain the crowd.

## Tomba clinches blue ribbon in World Cup slalom race

ARE, Sweden (AP) — Steady Alberto Tomba of Italy came from fifth after the first run to win a World Cup slalom race Saturday, 0.22 seconds ahead of American sensation Felix McGrath.

Tomba, the Olympic champion, turned in the fastest time down the 62-gate second run in 1:51.51. He had a 49.90 in the opening 57-gate first run for a combined time of 1 minute, 41.41 seconds.

It was Tomba's fifth victory of the season in the slalom — an event in which he has already clinched the cup title — and eighth overall.

McGrath, who had runs of 49.86 and 51.77 for 1:41.63, called it his "best race ever." He had been in fourth place after the morning run.

Gunter Mader of Austria finished third in 1:41.66 and Frank Worrell of West Germany, the 1987 world champion and a silver medalist behind Tomba in the Olympics, took fourth in 1:42.43.

Ingermar Stenmark, the winningest slalom and giant slalom racer in history, was second after the first run but didn't ski as well in the second and fell to fifth in 1:42.64.

Bernhard Gstrein of Austria, who led after the first run, missed a gate early in the windup run and was disqualified. Gstrein is the only skier who has beaten Tomba in the slalom this year, at Lienz, Austria, last January.

Tomba's victory, the first ever by an Italian in a Swedish World Cup meet, moved him to first place in the World Cup standings with 249 points.

The Swiss all-around star, who won the Olympic downhill title but has struggled in gate races this season, still has 236 points and dropped to second place.

Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland, the defending overall champion, didn't make the top 15 and failed to pick up any World Cup points.

The Swiss all-around star, who won the Olympic downhill title but has struggled in gate races this season, still has 236 points and dropped to second place.

Rounding out the top 10 were Jorgen Sundqvist of Sweden, sixth in 1:42.98, followed by Grega Benedik of Yugoslavia, 1:43.11; Hubert Strolz of Austria, 1:43.20; Peter Roth of West Germany, 1:43.24; and Michael Tritscher of Austria, 1:43.26.



Alberto Tomba in action

## Forest-United end in goalless draw

LONDON (R) — Nottingham Forest's first capacity crowd of the season had to settle for a disappointing goalless draw against Manchester United in the English First Division Saturday.

With leaders Liverpool not playing until Sunday, against Everton, there was a chance for second-placed United and Forest, who are fourth, to make the gap between them and the top a trifle more respectable.

But United clearly missed England captain Bryan Robson, ruled out of the match shortly before the kickoff with flu, and Forest lacked the verve to pierce the defence and satisfy their faithful among the 35,000 crowd.

Fifth-placed Arsenal also dropped points after being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Newcastle United.

Paul Gascoigne missed an eighth minute penalty for Newcastle and Perry Groves gave the Londoners the lead after 29 minutes. The visitors' equaliser came through Paul Goddard 14 minutes from time.

The day's action was bound to be overshadowed by Liverpool's bid Sunday to beat Leeds United's record in the 1973-74 season of remaining unbeaten for the opening 29 games.

But there was plenty of drama at lowly Oxford where Chelsea took a 3-0 halftime lead only to be pegged back to 3-3 with 15 minutes left.

Kerry Dixon hit his second to make it 4-3 for Chelsea in the

86th minute but Dean Saunders notched his second with two minutes left to make the final score a breathless 4-4.

Liverpool are now 14 points clear of Manchester United with three games in hand, and a firm of London bookmakers which stands to lose one million pounds sterling (\$1.82 million) if they stay unbeaten until the end of the season must be praying hard.

Further down the division, there was trouble at Wimbledon where fullback Clive Goodyear's Football Association (F.A.) Cup dream faded in agony after a mistimed tackle by Tottenham striker Clive Allen.

Wimbledon won 3-0 but it could not dampen their anger over the 35th minute incident.

Allen went in recklessly, studs showing, to send Goodyear to hospital with a suspected broken right leg and no hope of playing against Luton in next month's semifinal.

Allen escaped even a caution for the tackle, but Vinny Jones was not so lucky three minutes later when he scythed down the Tottenham man.

Jones exacted a more respectable retribution in the 62nd minute, stealing in at the far post to meet Alan Cork's flick with a thunderous volley. John Fashanu and Dennis Wise were the other Wimbledon marksmen.

West Ham, who have sunk dangerously near the relegation zone, eased their problems a little

with a 1-0 home win over bottom club Watford.

The deciding goal came from new boy Leroy Rosenior, bought 24 hours earlier from Third Division Fulham for £275,000 (\$500,000), and justifying manager John Lyall's faith in the best possible way.

Relegation-threatened Derby earned their first win at Coventry for 15 years with a 3-0 scoreline, but were given a late scare when England goalkeeper Peter Shilton had to be carried off and taken to hospital suffering from concussion after colliding with Coventry's Dave Bennett.

## English and Scottish football league standings

LONDON (R) — English football league table after matches played Saturday:

English Division One									
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
Liverpool	29	22	7	0	67	13	73		
Manchester United	32	16	11	5	48	30	59		
Nottingham Forest	29	15	8	6	52	26	53		
Everton	30	15	8	7	41	18	53		
Arsenal	30	15	7	8	46	28	52		
Queens Park Rangers	31	15	7	9	38	32	52		
Wimbledon	30	13	9	8	45	32	48		
Tottenham	34	11	9	14	34	41	42		
Sheffield Wednesday	32	12	4	16	36	53	40		
Norwich	32	11	6	15	34	40	39		
Coventry	31	10	9	12	37	46	39		
Luton	28	11	5	12	40	38	38		
Newcastle	30	9	11	10	36	42	38		
Southampton	32	9	10	13	38	44	37		
West Ham	31	8	12	11	31	40	36		
Derby	31	8	10	13	28	34	34		
Chelsea	32	8	10	14	42	57	34		
Charlton	32	7	10	15	32	47	31		
Portsmouth	30	6	12	12	27	47	30		
Oxford	30	6	9	15	39	62	27		
Watford	30	5	8	17	18	39	23		

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
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**WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ**

Q.1 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ QJ76 ♣ Q952 ♦ J3 ♣ Q87  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♦ DBL Pass ?  
What action do you take?

Q.2 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ QJ76 ♣ QJ3 ♦ Q952 ♣ Q87  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♦ DBL Pass ?  
What action do you take?

Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ KJ876 ♣ 74 ♦ 95 ♠ AK102  
Partner opens the bidding with three hearts. What is your response?

Q.4 — South hand and auction as above, but this time your side is vulnerable. Does that make a difference?

Q.5 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ AKJ76 ♣ 99 ♦ KJ98 ♠ AJ6  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ A106 ♣ Q919 ♦ K1073 ♠ 873  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♦ 1 ♠ 2 ♣ Pass  
3 ♣ Pass ?  
What action do you take? Look for answers on Monday.

## FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 1988

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You will have plenty of time to consider the various practical and financial problems which face you, and to find some sensible solutions to them. This should be a very relaxing and happy day.

**ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)** Use your spare time to improve the condition and value of your property, but reserve the evening for some fun with your family.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)** Your charm and dynamic personality can win you some wonderful new friends today, so go out on the town and socialize a bit.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)** You can be quite successful romantically today, so focus your attention on that special someone. Set up a better budget.

**MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21)** Come to a decision about how you can best proceed in attaining your goals. It is very important that you drive with care.

**LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21)** Try to get the support of an influential person for your pet project. Getting involved in some civic matters would help improve your self-esteem.

**VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)** A trip you have been contemplating for a long time should be arranged now, as this little jaunt can bring you many fine benefits.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** List your assets and liabilities as you'll know exactly where you stand financially. Discuss them with your mate, but avoid arguing.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** If you use different tactics than usual, you can get a stubborn person to change his mind. Take it easy and set plenty of rest tonight.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** Volunteer your services to help out a friend who is in trouble. This is a good time to start paying more attention to your health.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)** Plan your time well so that you can handle your necessary duties and also have time left for some entertainment this evening.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)** Be sure to follow the rules at home today, and everything will go much more smoothly there. Avoid noisy, ill-mannered people tonight.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)** Sit down for some quiet meditation about the direction your life has been taking, and, if need be, make any necessary changes.

## The Daily Commuter Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Football team  
5 Title of respect  
10 Czech river  
14 Eastern nanny  
15 Fred's sib  
16 Glen  
17 Zola novel  
18 Plumed bird  
19 Sandusky's lake  
20 Of the ear  
21 Part of IRS  
22 Old lakelovers  
27 Lay away  
28 Record over  
29 Fare and —  
35 Collaglan  
36 Abu Dhabi VIP  
37 Snide  
38 Bursting  
42 Squint  
43 Where the Shannon flows  
44 Recent: prof.  
45 Blanket  
46 Age  
47 Dark bread  
55 Whirlybirds  
58 Money in the  
59 Corridor  
60 Mob scenes  
63 Appraise  
64 "I cannot tell"  
65 Skirt inserts  
66 State  
67 Cross  
68 Upright  
69 A Truman

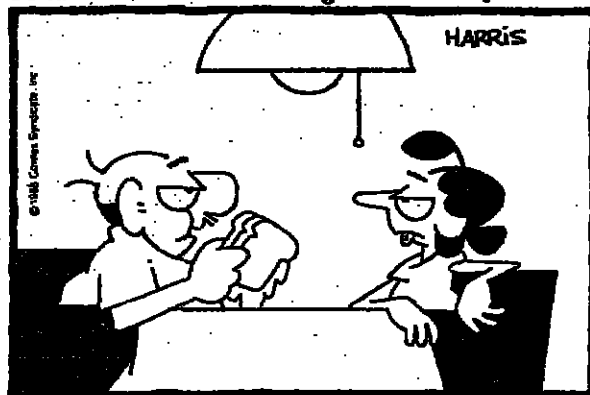
DOWN

1 Spoke without pause  
2 Victim maker  
3 —depressive  
4 Hovels  
5 — Joop  
6 Humoet  
7 Scorned  
8 Without help  
9 Trainer  
10 Go too far

11 Shuckal  
12 Director Kazan  
13 Rod adjunct  
22 Comp. dir.  
24 Depict  
25 Despoil  
26 Wiserie  
29 Idi —  
30 Lobliolly  
31 Therefore  
32 Snakes  
33 Run away  
34 Grandstand  
35 Whistled  
36 Loading place  
40 Algerian port  
41 Persian lady  
43 Ugly thing  
46 Kind of test  
47 Appear  
48 Sacred beetle  
51 Before  
52 Rascal  
53 Kitchen and cigar ends  
54 Smirks  
55 Burn  
56 Niprus  
57 Setmegundi  
61 Soho sleuth  
62 Suit plane

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"New diet — eat lots of Vaseline sandwiches — helps the fat slide off your bones!"

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Best suit sale we ever had

WHY THE SHOP-KEEPER SAID FAREWELL TO THAT BARGAIN MERCHANDISE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: IT WAS "MEASURE UP"

Yesterday's Jumble: ERASE AMUSE SPRUCE RITUAL  
Answer: What a good ruler is supposed to do—MEASURE UP

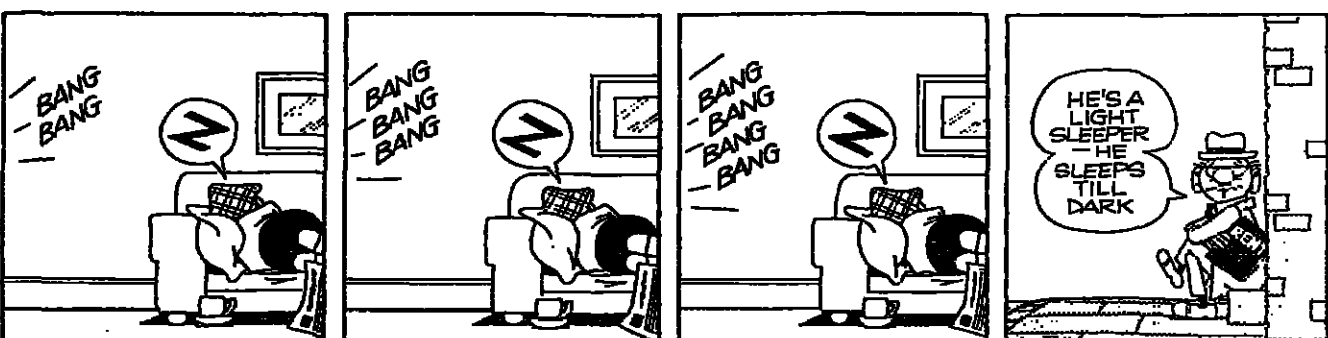
## Peanuts



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp





## U.N. mission to probe border clash

# Azcona: U.S. troops could be drawn into combat

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — U.S. troops sent to show support for Honduras could be drawn into combat if Nicaraguan aggression increases, the Honduran president said, but Nicaragua said its anti-rebel operation had already ended.

A United Nations mission was headed for the tense border area next week after an emergency Security Council session Friday debated Nicaraguan charges that 3,200 U.S. troops were sent to pave the way for military intervention in Nicaragua.

An envoy from Managua called President Reagan's despatch of troops an attempt to create an artificial crisis, but Honduran President Jose Azcona told Spanish radio Nicaraguan forces had taken 60 square kilometres of Honduran territory.

In Washington the troop movements sparked criticism from opponents in Congress who claim soldiers were sent to spur the resumption of U.S. aid to the contra rebels, which was cut off at the end of February.

But conservative Democratic congressmen joined five Republicans Friday in proposing \$48 million in non-lethal aid for the rebels and authority to supply up to \$5 million in undelivered lethal

and non-lethal aid.

### Concern over peace talks

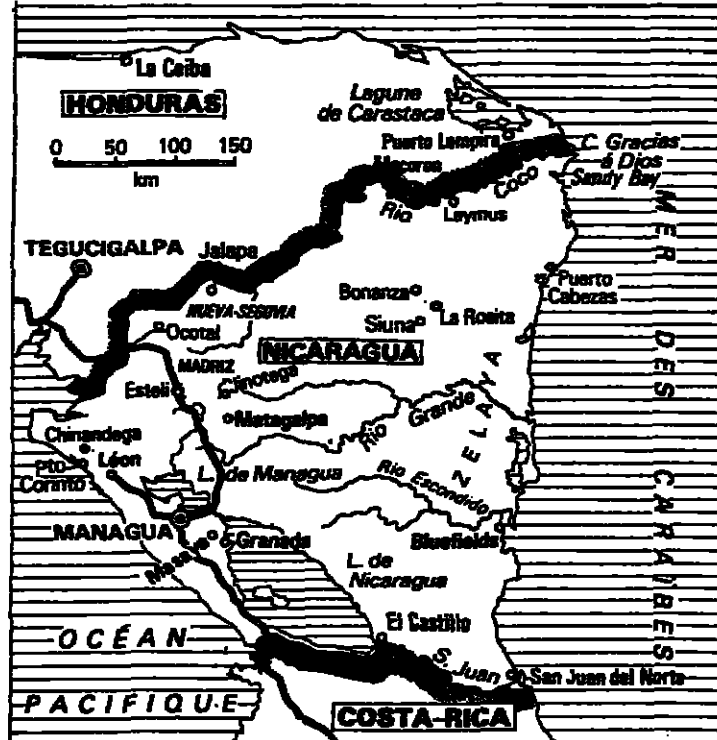
The border hostilities caused concern about ceasefire talks due to start between the Nicaraguan government and rebels next Monday in the Nicaraguan town of Sapoa. A contra spokesman said the rebels would attend if government aggression stopped.

### Offensive called off

A senior defence ministry source in Managua said Nicaragua called off its offensive against the contras Wednesday after learning of the proposed U.S. troop movement.

Azcona said U.S. troops could be drawn into fighting if Nicaraguan aggression increased, although U.S. officials stressed there were no plans for U.S. soldiers to see combat.

U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci said the "moral support" mission that began Thursday was expected to last about 10 days.



The last of the U.S. forces parachuted into Honduras Friday. The troops will be engaged in military exercises some 100 kilometres from the border zone, U.S. officials said.

A Nicaraguan commander on the border denied Thursday his troops had entered Honduras but said they overran a network of contra supply bases and pushed 1,800 rebels back into Honduras.

## Salvador prepares for polls

SAN SALVADOR (R) — El Salvador prepared for Sunday's national assembly and municipal elections with a show of strength against leftist rebels opposed to the voting.

Government troops in combat gear patrolled the capital as armoured cars cruised the streets and helicopters clattered overhead constantly Friday.

Despite the deployment of 90 per cent of the 56,000-strong military across the country, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebel army shut down most traffic in the countryside with a threat to attack any vehicle on the road.

Traffic was also severely reduced in San Salvador. Few private buses were running although the government had warned that drivers who did not take out their vehicles risked having their licences suspended.

The rebel threat appeared to be enough to keep cars of the road as only one incident was reported in the city.

Four guerrillas stopped a taxi driven by Erasmo Alfaro Valdez, ordered him out, poured petrol over the car and set it ablaze.

The FMLN's radio Venceremos also warned petrol stations not to open Saturday. On Thursday night, guerrillas machine-gunned a station from a passing car, wounding three soldiers standing guard.

Communications Minister Eduardo Colindres said the U.S.-backed government would employ an emergency plan to provide transport for voters to get to polling stations.

"I believe the Salvadorean people will trust in the protection of the armed forces," he said in a statement.

## Panama in state of emergency; opposition plans general strike

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — Panama's opposition called for a general strike Friday after the government imposed a state of emergency to quell widespread protests aimed at removing military strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Leaders of the opposition National Civic Civil (Cruzada Civilista Nacional) told a news conference the strike would begin Monday and go on indefinitely.

They said it was meant "to demand the substantial political changes the country requires, and which can only come about with Noriega's immediate ousting."

Previous calls for a general strike by the Crusade, a coalition of almost 200 labour, business and social groups, have been unsuccessful in ousting Noriega, who faces drug charges in the United States and growing popular discontent in Panama.

Friday's strike call came only a few hours after President Manuel Solis Palma announced a state of emergency giving the government sweeping powers of arrest and suspending a wide range of civil rights.

### 'Futile attempt'

Leaders of the largely middle-class Crusade called the emergency decree "a futile attempt to put down the protests of the Panamanian people."

The government said it imposed the emergency to defend itself from "an attack on its economy by the United States of America, in coordination with other national political sectors keen on taking over the government by force."

U.S.-imposed economic sanctions, including the freezing of \$50 million in Panamanian bank deposits in the United States,

have caused a cash crunch in Panama, leaving banks here closed since March 4.

The economic crisis exploded into violence this week as unpaid electrical workers and other government employees took to the streets to demand their wages.

The protests reached their height after an aborted coup attempt against Noriega early Wednesday morning, which was put down by troops loyal to him.

After purging a group of officers within the 16,000-strong Panama Defence Force, which Noriega leads, the army put troops from the U.S.-trained 2,000 battalion on the streets, and militarised most public services.

Although Noriega appeared to be firmly in control, reports from Washington said the beleaguered general was already negotiating with U.S. State Department officials for his departure to a third country, possibly France or Spain.

According to the reports on American television, Noriega hoped to bargain for a promise that he would not be prosecuted or extradited.

### 'A Panamanian solution'

Crusade leaders told reporters they had received a message from Noriega through a third party saying he was seeking "a Panamanian solution" to the current crisis. However, they could

not explain what Noriega meant.

Friday's state of emergency decree further widens Noriega's ability to clamp down, as it suspends the right to private property and a whole range of civil rights.

It came a day after four American soldiers from the U.S. Southern Command were arrested and released by Panamanian troops, according to U.S. officials, who declined to comment on what the soldiers' duty was or why they were arrested.

There was no immediate reaction to the decree among the general public, nor was it clear what the practical effects of the measure would be.

### No extradition

Meanwhile, an administration official in Washington said the United States has decided against seeking the extradition of Noriega to answer drug charges in Florida if he flees to a third country.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said Friday that Deputy Assistant Secretary of State William Walker has gone to Panama at Noriega's request to discuss the terms of his possible departure.

The official also said that two Panamanian pilots who worked for Noriega have defected to the United States.

## Kremlin holds talks with ethnic envoys

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin numbers two Yegor Ligachev has met workers from a region at the centre of Transcaucasian ethnic unrest as its residents stepped up pressure for a decision on their demands.

Ligachev talked Friday to a delegation from Nagorno-Karabakh, the mountainous area of Azerbaijan where the local parliament voted last month for reunification with Armenia.

TASS news agency said. He and other Politburo members also discussed the regional dispute at a meeting with party, scientific and cultural figures in Moscow who are of Azerbaijani and Armenian nationality.

The Kremlin meetings came a day after the local Communist Party in Nagorno-Karabakh passed a resolution in favour of reunification with Armenia, increasing the pressure on Moscow to deal with the problem.

Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev met Azerbaijani party chief Kiyamran Bagirov and his Armenian counterpart Karen Demichyan in the Kremlin earlier this month to discuss the recent trouble in the area.

But Ligachev's talks with workers from Nagorno-Karabakh was the first reported meeting in the Kremlin with a group of residents of the disputed area.

## U.S. Customs begins new drug crackdown

WASHINGTON (R) — New "zero tolerance" drug guidelines that allow the arrest of anyone entering the United States with even tiny amounts of illegal drugs go into effect Monday, the U.S. Customs commissioner said Friday.

William Von Raab said in a statement that as of Monday all cases will be prosecuted. Passports and other travel documents of suspects will be seized and held as evidence, he said.

Until now, travellers caught trying to smuggle very small amounts of drugs were sometimes merely fined and released, though crossing the border with a

controlled substance is a felony under federal law. Heavy court backlogs prevented some cases from being prosecuted.

"People who bring drugs into the United States are committing a crime, and they need to be punished for that crime, regardless of the amount of drugs involved," Von Raab said. "If people know that they will be arrested for bringing a gram of cocaine into the country, they will think twice."

Under the new guidelines, everyone caught with drugs will be arrested, fingerprinted, booked and formally charged.



The Soviet first couple, Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev, meet with young people in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

## Moscow pledges non-intervention in other Communist countries

BELGRADE (R) — The Soviet Union and Yugoslavia have pledged to respect the right of all Communist parties to choose their own paths.

A joint declaration issued after Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev ended a five-day visit Friday also said they had no intention of imposing their systems on anyone.

Analysts said this formally invalidated the so-called Brezhnev Doctrine of limited sovereignty for Communist countries.

The doctrine, named after former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, was used as a pretext for the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and had hung since then as a threat over Moscow's East European allies.

"Proceeding from the conviction that no one has a monopoly over the truth, the two sides declare that they have no pretensions of imposing their concepts of social development on anyone," the statement said.

The two countries attached special importance to observing international documents "which prohibit aggression, the violation of frontiers, the conquest of foreign territories, any threat or use of force and any interference in the internal affairs of other states under any pretext whatsoever," it added.

"Communist, Workers', Socialist, Social Democratic, National Liberation and other progressive parties and movements" had the inalienable right to decide independently on their own paths of social development.

### 'World without arms'

The two countries also called for "a world without arms" saying they believed it was possible to eliminate all nuclear and conventional weapons.

The statement said Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union would increase cooperation and promote trade.

"The document shows both

countries are struggling to find a type of socialism suited to the needs of the late 20th and the 21st centuries," one political analyst said.



Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev embraces a young Yugoslavian.

## Colombia recovers bodies of crash victims

CUCUTA, Colombia (AP) — Recovery workers Friday began to remove disfigured bodies of the 137 people who perished when an Avianca jetliner smashed into a mountain, triggered a landslide and burst into flames.

Witnesses said the Boeing 727-100 clipped trees before hitting a snow-covered mountainside Thursday near Zulia, 80 kilometres north of Cucuta.

Cucuta is near the Venezuelan border, 400 kilometres northeast of Bogota.

Colonel Miguel Benedetti, civil defence director for the state of North Santander, said Thursday night that there were no survivors.

The government said it has begun an investigation, but that recovery personnel had not yet located the plane's "black box," which could give investigators some clues as to what caused the crash.

Rain, snow and rough terrain hampered rescue efforts Thursday. But civil aeronautics agency officials said that work crews, some using helicopters, returned to the crash site Friday.

Augusto Bautista, police inspector in nearby Campo Alicia, said pieces of bodies were scattered around the crash area.

"It's not possible to recognise anyone," said Bautista, one of the first people to arrive at the scene after the plane crashed five minutes following takeoff from Cucuta.

Bautista said the only thing recognisable at the crash was an engine.

## WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

### Socialists willing to talk with De Mita

ROME (AP) — The Socialists Friday told Italian Christian Democrat leader Ciriaco De Mita they were willing to negotiate with him to form a new government, but their final decision will depend on his policy platform. De Mita, 60-year-old secretary of the dominant Christian Democrats, opened consultations with various political leaders Friday on prospects for forming Italy's 48th postwar government. De Mita was appointed premier-designate by President Francesco Cossiga Wednesday, five days after Christian Democrat Premier Giovanni Goria resigned following a shaky 7½-months at the helm of a five-party coalition.

### Fresh avalanches kill 90 in India

NEW DELHI (R) — Avalanches killed 90 people in India's northern state of Jammu and Kashmir Friday, an Indian news agency reported. Six bodies, including those of two children, have been recovered since the disaster in Kargil district near the border with China, the United News of India said. Relief operations are continuing with the help of helicopters. More than 160 people have died in the mountainous state which has been hit by avalanches, landslides and bad weather in recent weeks.

### Britain hails Falklands exercise

MOUNT PLEASANT, Falkland Islands (R) — Britain's controversial reinforcement of its Falkland Island garrison, condemned by many Latin American states as an act of aggression, was being hailed as a resounding success by its military planners. General Neil Carlier, the exercise commander, told reporters Friday that the airbridge of men and aircraft from British bases 12,800 kilometres away had shown Britain could respond effectively and rapidly to any threat against these remote south Atlantic islands. "We have proved conclusively that we can do it and that is a tremendous gain," Carlier said as the last of the troops reinforcing the garrison landed. The reinforcement was the first since 1982, when Argentina invaded the islands to push its claim of sovereignty and was ousted by British troops in a 10-week war.

### 'Dalai Lama wants to split China'

PEKING (R) — Chinese President Li Xiannian accused the Dalai Lama of wanting to split China, in the highest level criticism of Tibet's exiled spiritual leader since anti-Chinese rioting erupted in Lhasa two weeks ago. "We have respect for the Dalai Lama, but he does not respect China, his motherland. He is actually attempting to split the country up," Li told a visiting Nepalese delegation Saturday. The official New China News Agency quoted Li as saying China would never allow what he called "a small number of trouble-makers in Lhasa and abroad," to dismember China.

## HIV-infected not always impaired

GENEVA (AP) — A World Health Organisation (WHO) panel said Friday that people infected with the AIDS virus but not the disease itself do not run an increased risk of brain and nervous system disorders, as do those with the disease. The 48-member panel said in a statement that "there is no evidence" that screening healthy people for the HIV virus, which causes AIDS, would help predict "the onset of functional impairment." The statement noted that some people with the disease AIDS or with AIDS-related-complex have suffered damage to the brain and nervous systems believed caused by the HIV virus.

## AIDS in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia Thursday reported its first AIDS cases, saying seven of the 18 people who had contracted the virus had died. The kingdom, which screens all foreign workers for AIDS before allowing them to enter the country, had not previously disclosed any cases. But a health ministry official told a seminar here nine Saudi nationals and nine foreigners had contracted the virus.

## Royals get a raise

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II and her family got an average 4.6 per cent raise in last week's annual government budget, hiking to £5,535,700 (\$10,241,000) the annual direct cost of the royal family. The Civil List section of the budget, announced in Parliament by Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, goes mostly toward clerical expenses and salaries for people ranging from the Queen's secretaries to Buckingham Palace cleaners. The Queen and nine other royals each got 4 per cent rises. But the allocation for her middle son, Prince Andrew, jumped by 73 per cent from £50,000 pounds (\$92,500) to £86,000 (\$159,100).

## Fight for right to cheat

DHAKA (R) — Nearly 100 people were injured when Bangladesh students armed with rocks and hockey sticks battled police trying to prevent cheating during school final examinations. Police said they fired blank shots and used batons and teargas to disperse hundreds of students who marched out of an examination centre in Western Chuadanga district Thursday. The students shouted "We seek the right to copy" and "Allow friends to help us," one police officer said.

## Ike Turner found guilty

LOS ANGELES (R) — Ike Turner, who with his former wife Tina had a string of rhythm and blues hits in the 1960s, was convicted Friday of transportation and possession of cocaine. But jurors acquitted Turner, who has admitted a drug dependency problem, of a third count of possession of cocaine for sale. He faces a maximum sentence of five years and eight months in prison on the other charges. "I think it's pretty clear Mr. Turner has a serious problem with cocaine and I'm glad it's finally been recognised by the criminal system," said Deputy District Attorney Lisa Hart. Turner, 55, was arrested in August after police stopped him for driving erratically and found six grams of rock cocaine in his car.

## 'Yes, I was dealing'

IMPERIA, Italy (AP) — A 75-year-old retired police chief appeared in court for allegedly selling heroin because he says his wife wanted to buy a new carpet. Milan's daily Corriere Della Sera reported Friday, Vincenzo Alessi and his wife Fulvia Borello, 61, both well-known and respected in this seaside town in the northern region of Liguria, appeared at a pre-trial hearing Thursday to answer to charges of drug dealing. The Alessis were arrested last May on charges of selling 5 grammes of heroin to a woman in the area. Police said they also found more than 30 grammes of pure heroin inside their Imperia home. Alessi said in court that he had become involved in selling drugs because "My wife wanted to change the carpeting." He said she insisted on the change because she suffers from allergies. The cost of the carpet Alessi intended to buy was about 12 million lire (\$9,670). "Yes, I was dealing," he was quoted as saying by the newspaper. "I have a family to support."

## Europe, U.S. to build space station

PARIS (R) — The European Space Agency (ESA) said Friday it has approved an accord with the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to build an international space station.

ESA said in a communique that the accord for the largest international civil space venture ever undertaken was adopted at a two-day meeting of its council here following two years of tough negotiations.

It clears the way for development work to start on the \$20 billion project, which also involves Japan and Canada.

The station, due to go into orbit in the late 1990s, will comprise three laboratories, built separately by the United States, Western Europe and Japan, and a habitation module being built by the United States, all attached to a giant metallic structure.

The \$4 billion European contribution will include an unmanned laboratory orbiting independently of the main structure, to be visited periodically by astronauts, as well as an unmanned earth observation platform.

European nations signalled

their enthusiasm for the space station project at a ministerial meeting in The Hague last November, with only Britain out of the large industrial countries refusing to participate.

West Germany agreed to pay 38 per cent of the European contribution to the space station project, Italy 25 per cent and France 14 per cent. Belgium, Denmark, The Netherlands, Norway and Spain are also participating.

### Peaceful purposes

Negotiations between Europe and the United States have been marred by disputes over who should have managerial control of the station and whether the U.S. Defence Department should be able to use the facility for military experiments.

The United States has agreed that the station should be used only for peaceful purposes, although space officials have said this does not exclude defence-orientated military experiments.

It is still unclear to what extent experiments connected with the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) will be permitted.